



**Inside**

**THE BELT FINALLY FITS  
NICK BOCKWINKLE**

47727



JUNE 1976

\$1.00

WRESTLING

# Wrestling

**HAS THE  
PUNISHMENT  
TAKEN  
ITS  
TOLL**

**?**

**Bruno  
vs.  
Duncum**

**Bruno  
vs.  
Arion**

**Bruno  
vs.  
Ladd**

**Bruno  
vs.  
Superstar**

**Bruno  
vs.  
Kolooff**





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Brian Eastman

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FOR  
THE  
SUPER

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BE DYNAMIC!**

**AFTER**

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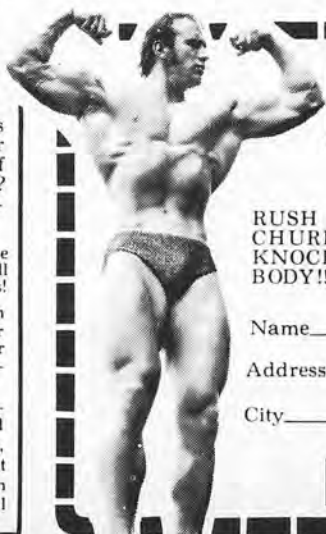
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WILL BEGIN  
TO GROW!**

**BEFORE**

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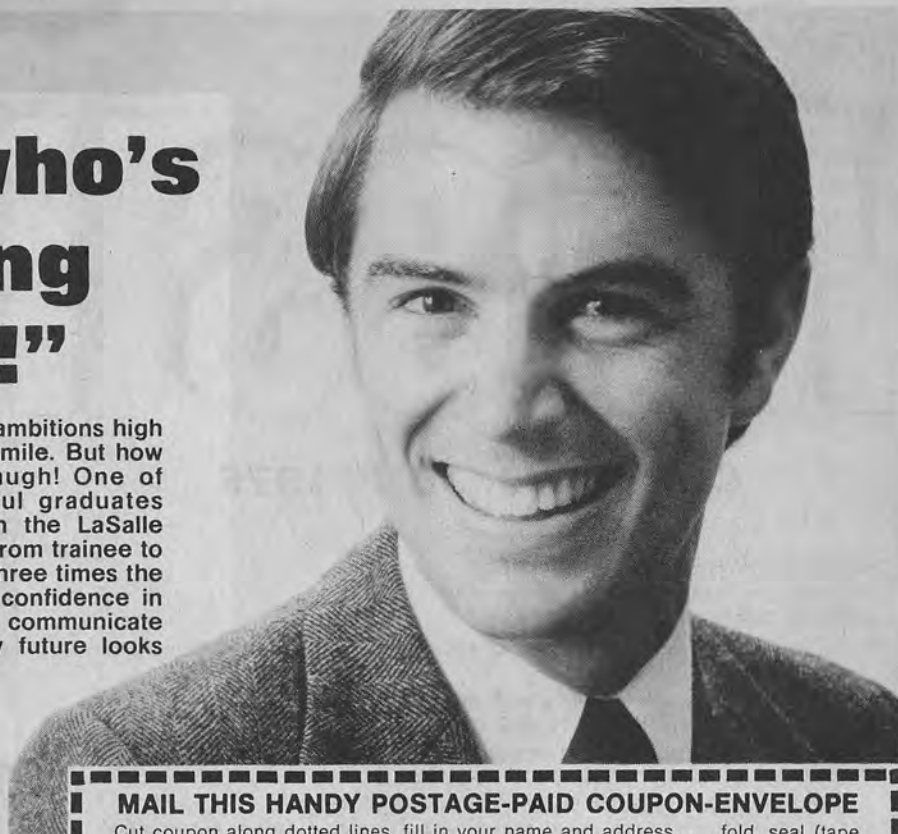
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● "I'm beginning to look like I did when I got out of the Marine Corps." — Don C., PA.

● "In just 6 weeks, I put 2" on my arms, 3" on my chest, 2" on my thighs, and gained 22 lbs." — N.D.

● "In complete honesty, I think it is a great exercise program... the best one on the market!!!!" — Dave Fuss, IL.

● "You just aren't another rip-off company. You back what you say." — T Roeklein, WI.

● "I've averaged from 2-3" on my legs, arms, and chest — I'm glad that I did invest the money." — Richard Oxer, MT.

● "Enclosed is my money order (for a new Powerex). I know how good it is. I had one and I lost it. I am in several sports and cannot win without Powerex. It is the greatest!" — G Scott, Canada.

● "Arms increased 2 1/2", chest 3", decreased waist 2", and gained 20 lbs. — look and feel a lot better!" — Joseph Moreno, CA.

● "I used to be a singles man — this season I was a home run hitter, and I credit Powerex with this." — T J, AL.

● "The results are just FANTASTIC!" — Richard Lynn, MN.

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Isometrics..... 12.1%

During each Isokinetic exercise, you continually change the "weight" to the amount that your muscles need for fastest maximum development... without stopping. Until recently the only Isokinetic exercisers available were complicated machines costing from \$120 to over \$4000. But NOW, A NEW invention, amazing in its beautiful simplicity, puts Isokinetic muscle building within your reach for only a few dollars.

### POWEREX — ISOKINETICS

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POWEREX is going to do all this for you thru the following ISOKINETIC PRINCIPLES:

- (1) **POWEREX** builds your muscles through their full range of movement. It works every small muscle fiber to its utmost. Not the grunt-and-groan partial static results of an Isometric gadget, but the total dynamic power of Isokinetics.
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# OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

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CHAMPION: BRUNO SAMMARTINO

- 1—SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM
- 2—IVAN KOLOFF
- 3—STAN HANSON
- 4—BOBO BRAZIL
- 5—IVAN PUTSKI
- 6—ERNIE LADD
- 7—BUGSY McGRAW
- 8—SCANDOR AKBAR
- 9—LOUIS CYR
- 10—BILLY WHITE WOLF

## AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

CHAMPION: NICK BOCKWINKLE

- 1—VERNE GAGNE
- 2—LARRY HENNIG
- 3—PAMPERO FIRPO
- 4—JOS LEDUC
- 5—BARON VON RASCHKE
- 6—BLACKJACK LANZA
- 7—OX BAKER
- 8—BOBBY DUNCUM
- 9—GREG GAGNE
- 10—KIM DUK

## MOST POPULAR WRESTLERS

- 1—BRUNO SAMMARTINO
- 2—IVAN PUTSKI
- 3—DUSTY RHODES
- 4—ANDRE THE GIANT
- 5—MIL MASCARAS
- 6—MR. WRESTLING II
- 7—BOBO BRAZIL
- 8—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
- 9—MARK LEWIN
- 10—MIGHTY IGOR

## NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

CHAMPION: TERRY FUNK

- 1—JACK BRISCO
- 2—DUSTY RHODES
- 3—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
- 4—THE SHEIK
- 5—FRITZ VON ERICH
- 6—PAUL JONES
- 7—BILLY ROBINSON
- 8—CHAVO GUERRERO
- 9—DORY FUNK JR.
- 10—JERRY LAWLER

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE ANDERSON BROTHERS
- 2—TONY PARISI & LOUIS CERDAN
- 3—BRUISER & CRUSHER
- 4—THE MONGOLS
- 5—BOB ROOP & BOB ORTON JR.
- 6—GOLIATH & BLACK GORDMAN
- 7—PAT PATTERSON & PEDRO MORALES
- 8—BOBBY DUNCUM & BLACKJACK LANZA
- 9—THE VALIANT BROTHERS
- 10—CHRIS COLT & LANNY POFFO

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CHAMPION: FABULOUS MOOLAH

- 1—VICKI WILLIAMS
- 2—BETTY NICCOLI
- 3—SUE GREEN
- 4—SUSAN SEXTON
- 5—DONNA CHRISTENELLO
- 6—KITTY ADAMS
- 7—JOYCE GREEN
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of the fabulous techniques you'll learn and master:

- Where to touch a girl first • how to make a woman "let herself go" • The aphrodisiac touch
- The positions girls like best • How to get a girl out of her clothes • What's special about a single girl • How to excite a girl with just words • How to give a woman multiple orgasms • How to caress her breast so she'll want desperately to sleep with you • How to arouse her with a single kiss • How to help her fantasize having sex with you • And hundreds of other fantastic techniques, most of them illustrated with exciting photographs!

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Imagine if you could walk up to any beautiful girl who caught your eye — repeat a few simple words to her you heard on a record album — and within seconds have her eating out of the palm of your hand.

Well, now you can! Because now there's a fantastic new record album (or cassette) called **PICKING UP GIRLS MADE EASY**. **PICKING UP GIRLS MADE EASY** will teach you a whole new system for picking up girls — a system that is so complete . . . and so absolutely foolproof . . . you'll soon be picking up girls automatically!!!

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- How to pick up an art-student in a museum • How to pick up girls in department stores • How to be witty (girls are easy to pick up once you've got them laughing) • How to get a pretty stranger at the beach to put suntan oil on you • How to get a girl out of a singles bar and into your apartment in less than an hour • How to tell when a girl wants to make it just by the sound of her voice.

## PICKING UP GIRLS MADE EASY!



The day your album arrives will be a fantastic experience. Sit down, pour yourself a glass of wine, and put **PICKING UP GIRLS MADE EASY** on your record player. Your life won't be the same again! What you'll hear is so exciting and fool-proof that the next time you spot a chick you'll pick her up without even thinking. After just one hearing you'll have the style and confidence of a master. So send for **PICKING UP GIRLS MADE EASY** today and watch out! (To order see coupon below.)

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### HOW TO PICK UP GIRLS!



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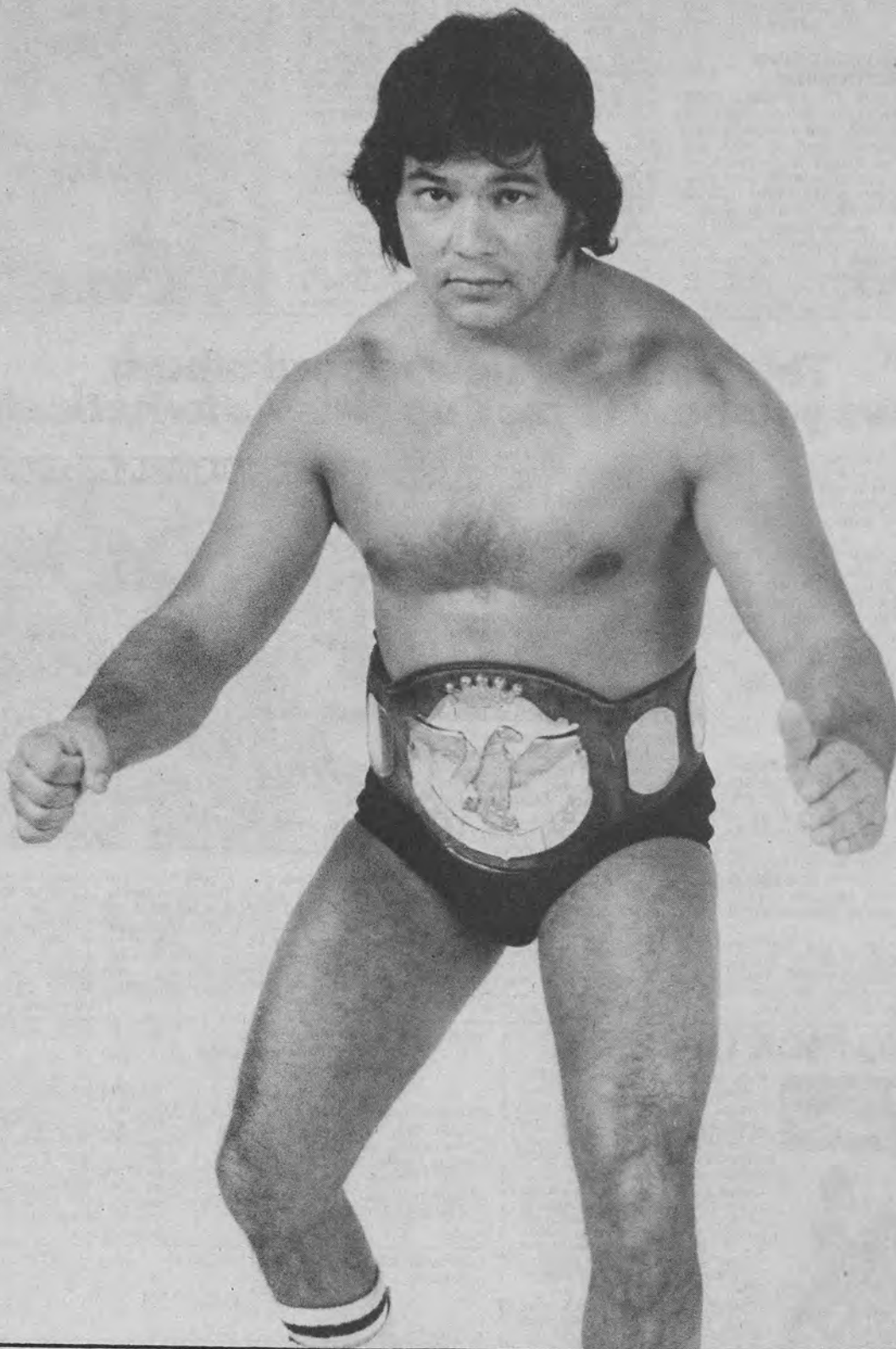
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# INSIDE WRESTLING PINUP #38



**CHAVO GUERRERO**



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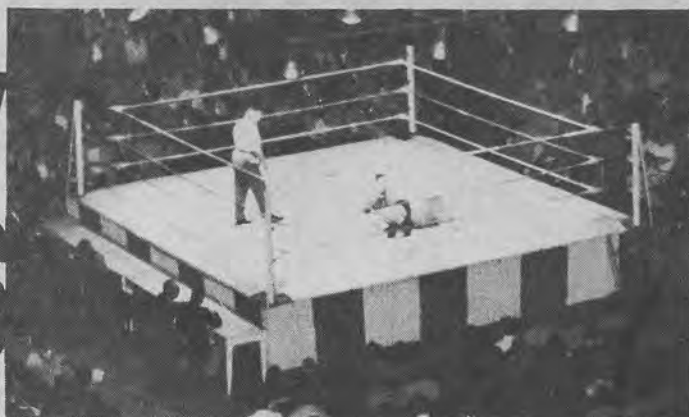
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# SINCERELY YOURS



*Fans were moved to deep reflection after reading about the two different careers of Mil Mascaras. Can one man survive in two of the most exacting, demanding professions in the entire world?*

## ALAS, POOR MASCARAS

So Mil Mascaras will soon have to decide which career he wants to pursue, acting or wrestling ("The Two Faces of Mil Mascaras" [INSIDE WRESTLING/April 1976])? I certainly hope he gives up his dramatic pursuits.

Mil Mascaras is too fine a wrestler to leave his fans disappointed. He has a large following all over the world, and I, for one, would hate to see him leave the mat wars.

ISAAC BERNSTEIN  
Tenafly, New Jersey

## SO LONG MIL

In your article "The Two Faces of Mil Mascaras" (INSIDE WRESTLING/April 1976), you state time is the one factor against the masked wrestler. He feels, according to your article, he must soon make a decision on whether he should forsake wrestling or acting. To me, the answer

seems quite clear: Mil should give up acting.

His fame as a cinematic star is limited to Mexico, whereas his fame as a wrestler is world-wide. He has given much more pleasure to wrestling fans than he has to cinema fans.

If Mil Mascaras decides to give up wrestling to pursue his acting career, it will be a regrettable decision. But if he thinks that is what is best for him, I hope he is successful at it.

ALEX FELIX  
Lincoln, Nebraska

## A TRUE CHAMPION

I was very sorry when I heard Jack Brisco lost his title, but your story, "Jack Brisco Ends His Reign in Style" (INSIDE WRESTLING/April 1976) was some comfort. It was good to read Jack had not been going through a period of deterioration before he lost the belt to Funk. This means he has an excellent chance of regaining it in the

near future.

Jack Brisco can indeed be proud of every match he had as champion, as the battle with The Spoiler so accurately points out. Whether or not he wears the belt around his waist, Jack Brisco will always be a champion to me.

ALLIE BELKIN  
Sarasota, Florida

## IS HE KIDDING?

Captain Lou Albano must be out of his mind to think he is more talented and better than Bruno Sammartino ("Eat Your Heart Out, Bruno" [INSIDE WRESTLING/April 1976]). Either the man is a total egomaniac, or he has never put his face in front of a mirror or seen a film of Bruno in action.

If Albano were matched against the WWWF champion, he would soon stop his stupid bragging. He would know soon enough who is the better wrestler of the two. Bruno doesn't have to eat his heart out, Captain, he already knows who is the best wrestler!

F. VITORIO CAPIELLO  
Old Bethpage, New York

## JERRY'S NO JERK

At first I thought Jerry Lawler was out of his mind to agree to a match against The Sheik (When Sheik Fled for His Life" [INSIDE WRESTLING/April 1976]). But I soon found out differently.

Finally, someone has taught Sheik a well-deserved lesson. Jerry Lawler was just the man for the job. I'm only sorry he had to resort to using a plastic knife to do the job, but if that is what it takes to make Sheik cower, I cannot complain.

Thank you, Jerry. You've done wrestling a great service!

EDDIE THATCHER  
Detroit, Michigan  
(Continued on page 51)



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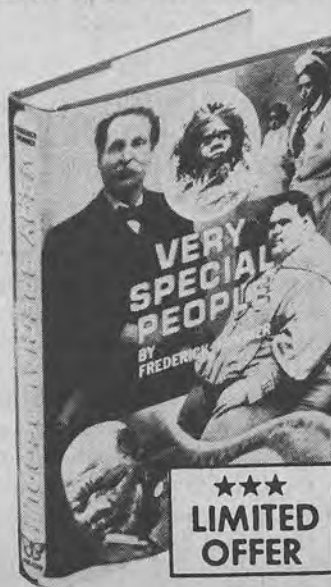
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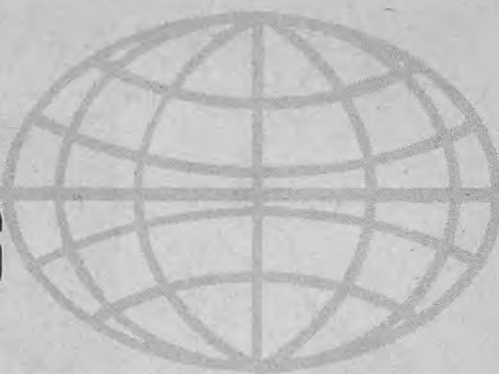
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# NEWS FROM THE WRESTLING CAPITALS



*Billy Robinson (below) is one of the many top grapplers who have recently failed to take the NWA title from Terry Funk.*



## FLORIDA FRACAS

By T.G. Nathan

**A**FTER FAILING TO win the AWA title by the slimmest of margins, Billy Robinson tried to wrest the NWA title from Terry Funk. Once again, the brave English mat star was confounded by that same slim margin.

It was a one-hour time limit match, one of the most grueling contests in professional sports. It requires exceptional stamina and pacing; a wrestler must be prepared to go the full time. A man who wrestles brilliantly for 45 minutes can find himself exhausted and defeated in the 46th. Both men are veterans of extended battles and knew what they were doing.

Except for occasional flare-ups of



*Terry Funk (above) is still the NWA champion despite some very brutal battles against the top men in his area. Few men have ever dared to take on so many in so many different places—and few have been as badly and brutally mauled as Funk (left).*

temper, to be expected during this kind of tense match, the wrestling was mostly scientific. Each man dominated for short periods of time. As the match approached its conclusion, Funk was clearly on the defensive, giving up hopes of winning and simply trying to run out the clock. No other intelligent professional would do otherwise.

When the bell sounded ending the match, Robinson was understandably upset. He begged for five extra minutes, an extended chance to realize his dream. Funk, forced into a corner by pride, consented to the extra time. It looked like Robinson might get the one break he's wanted for years.

However, the commission officials refused to accept the conditions. Robinson had to once again go back to the dressing room without a title belt.





*Above: Philadelphia is the scene for a battle between titans Ernie Ladd and Andre the Giant. No one present for this exciting battle will ever forget when the two men threw the rules out and tore at each other in savage streetfight. Below: A bloody Pat Patterson falls to the canvas. He won't be down for more than a few seconds before continuing his savage encounter against his foe, Don Muraco.*



## PHILADELPHIA MAYHEM

By Greg Cole

It was a confrontation of titans when Andre the Giant met Ernie Ladd at the Philadelphia arena. The grappling behemoths proved to be two of the most exciting men in professional

sports!

The match began scientifically, with Andre clearly holding the advantage. One look at Ernie could see he wasn't about to let things continue this way—and he didn't care how he was going to turn things around! When he could no longer stand Andre's cunning maneuvers confounding him at every

turn, Ladd started to use tactics which would have been looked down upon in a street brawl. His feet lashed out with savage fury, battering the Giant's body. Ernie also sent his fist crashing into Andre's head again and again.

Finally, Andre decided to leave his scientific knowledge behind and fight fire with fire. He overwhelmed Ladd, knocking Ernie nearly senseless with a series of head butts. As Ladd felt his legs go rubbery from pain, he turned and fled back to the dressing room. He wanted no more of Andre the Giant.

In the other half of the double main event, Superstar Billy Graham proved once again he's a ruthless competitor. Gorilla Monsoon had the famed mat star in real trouble when Billy decided rules are only to be followed when winning. Pulling a plastic knife from his trunks, he sliced Monsoon's face beyond recognition. Not seeing the foreign object, the referee deemed Monsoon too bloody to continue and awarded the match to Graham.

## CALIFORNIA REPORT

By Larry Barnhizer

It was a horrible bloodbath in the Modesto arena when Pat Patterson battled Don Muraco. Muraco had challenged Patterson, and Pat eagerly accepted. Promoter Johnny Miller hesitated to sign the match, foreseeing the explosion which would be inevitable. Only constant pressure from Muraco and Patterson forced him to permit the battle.

From the opening moments of the brawl, the two men tore into each other with savage passion. The action spilled in and out of the ring as Patterson and Muraco ignored the rules and went for the kill. After two furious falls, blood was covering both faces and mixing indiscriminately on the scarlet-stained canvas.

Finally, after teeth had torn gashes in both men's heads, the referee wisely declared Muraco too bloody to continue. With relief, fans thought they had seen the last of this bloody brawl. Stomachs had been turned and even the most callous had been forced to look away. However, the brawl was far from over!

Despite the match being officially ended, Muraco pushed the referee away and again went after Patterson. The two men went at it as if they were fresh as daisies.

It took a threat of suspension to stop the battle. Patterson had to be dragged off, anyway, to the sound of Muraco's taunts. □

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Mad Dog Vachon his  
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bad guys. Anyone  
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Fargo, ND 58102  
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Billy Robinson  
his favorite.  
Likes good and bad  
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Robinson her favorite.  
Likes good and bad  
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Ivan Putski his  
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Titusville, FL 32780  
Likes reading. Dusty  
Rhodes his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
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**STEVE CREMEANS (14)**  
4440 Coquina Ave.  
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Enjoys fishing. Tony  
Charles his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
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**LINDA HAUGDAHL (13)**  
421 S.W. 71 Avenue  
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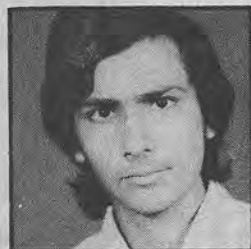
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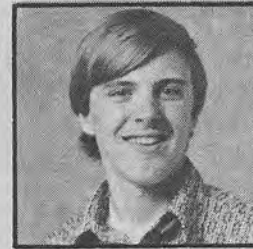
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Bruiser her favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
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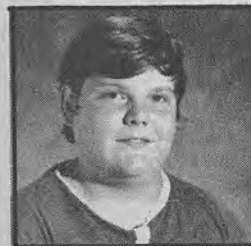
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Strongbow his  
favorite. Likes  
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**BETTY SIEG (10)**  
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Enjoys judo. Pat  
Patterson his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
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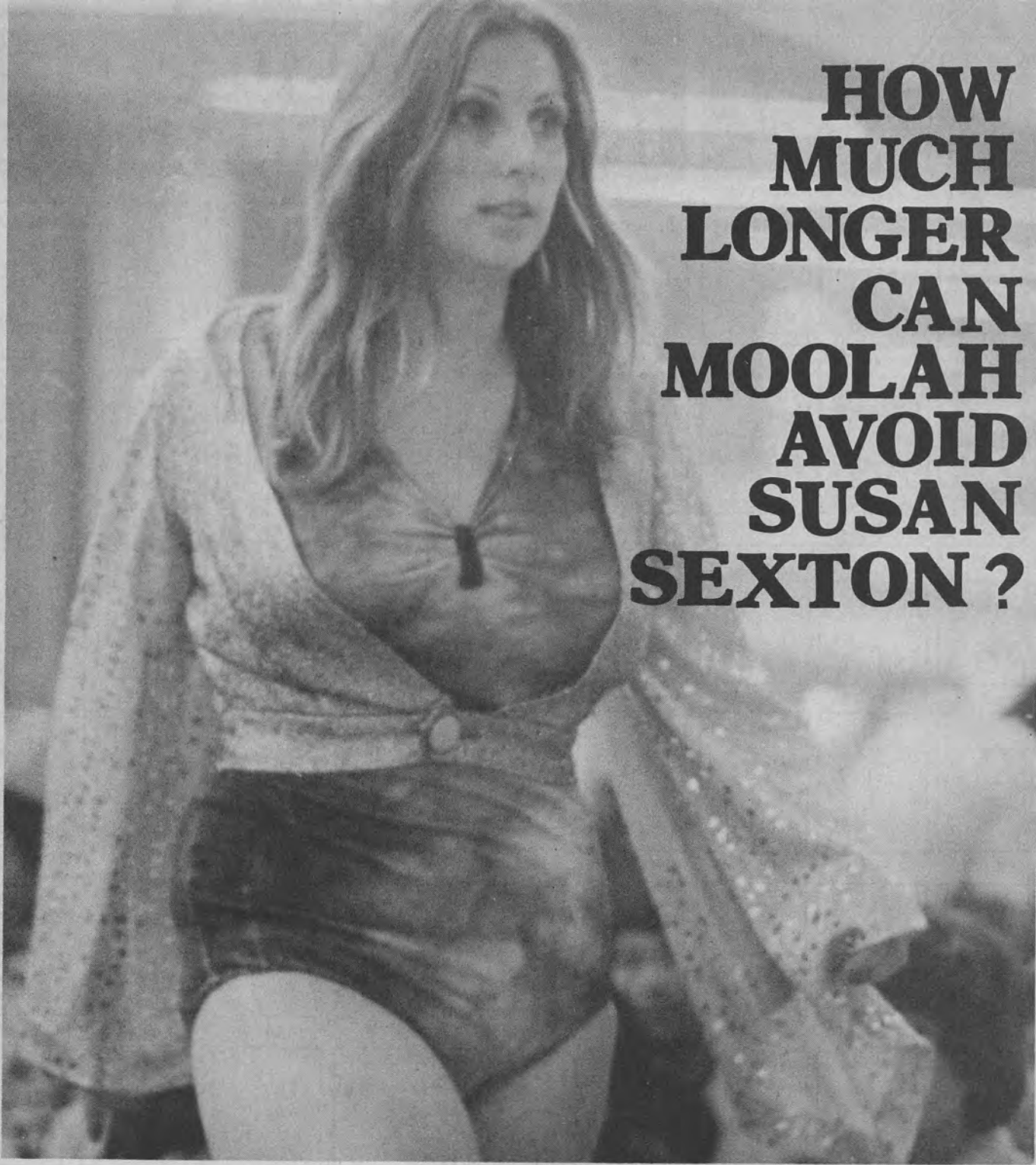
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# HOW MUCH LONGER CAN MOOLAH AVOID SUSAN SEXTON?

**A**N AMAZON WARRIOR must have been one of her ancestors. Her statuesque beauty is breathtaking. Her aura of power is awesome. A spear, a shield, and a dead lion at her feet would be

perfectly appropriate for Susan Sexton.

This internationally famous grappler has just taken the biggest step of her career. She publicly challenges Fabulous Moolah to a

match for the title. Moolah's silence has been shattering.

"I've written, telephoned, and telegraphed," Susan, an Australian native, claims, "and I haven't heard

*(Continued on page 48)*

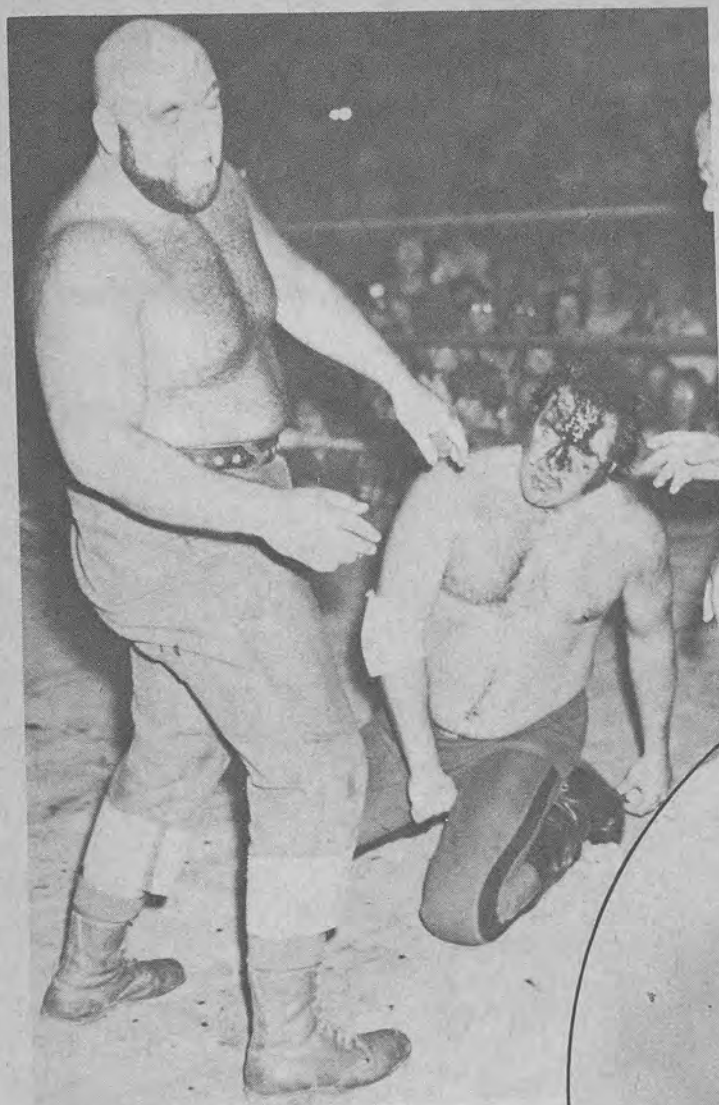
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**Susan Sexton is one of the most admired women wrestlers in the world. Is Moolah avoiding this beautiful Australian because she sees her conqueror in this exquisite athlete?**

---



# IS THERE A PLOT TO WIPE OUT JOE LEDUC?



*Even though he's drenched in his own blood, Marcel Dubois (above) keeps right on swinging, hoping to floor Joe. Karl Von Sholtz bites flesh from Joe's head (right). Von Sholtz Dubois and Karl Von Hess are said to be plotting against Joe Leduc.*

**I**S THERE A plot to have Joe Leduc "bumped off?"

"I'm beginning to think so," Leduc recently admitted. "It seems that every time I wrestle my opponents they cut me to shreds with foreign objects, hoping I'll bleed to death."

Joe may not be far from the truth. Through our investigative staff we've stumbled onto a plot that may be exactly what Joe is thinking about. It involves Kurt Von Hess, Marcel Dubois and Karl Von Sholtz.

From what we've been able to unscramble, these three are very jealous of Leduc's success and plan to do something about it, so the spotlight, so to say, will fall on *them*.

"I can't fully deny that," Dubois said when called on the carpet. "I

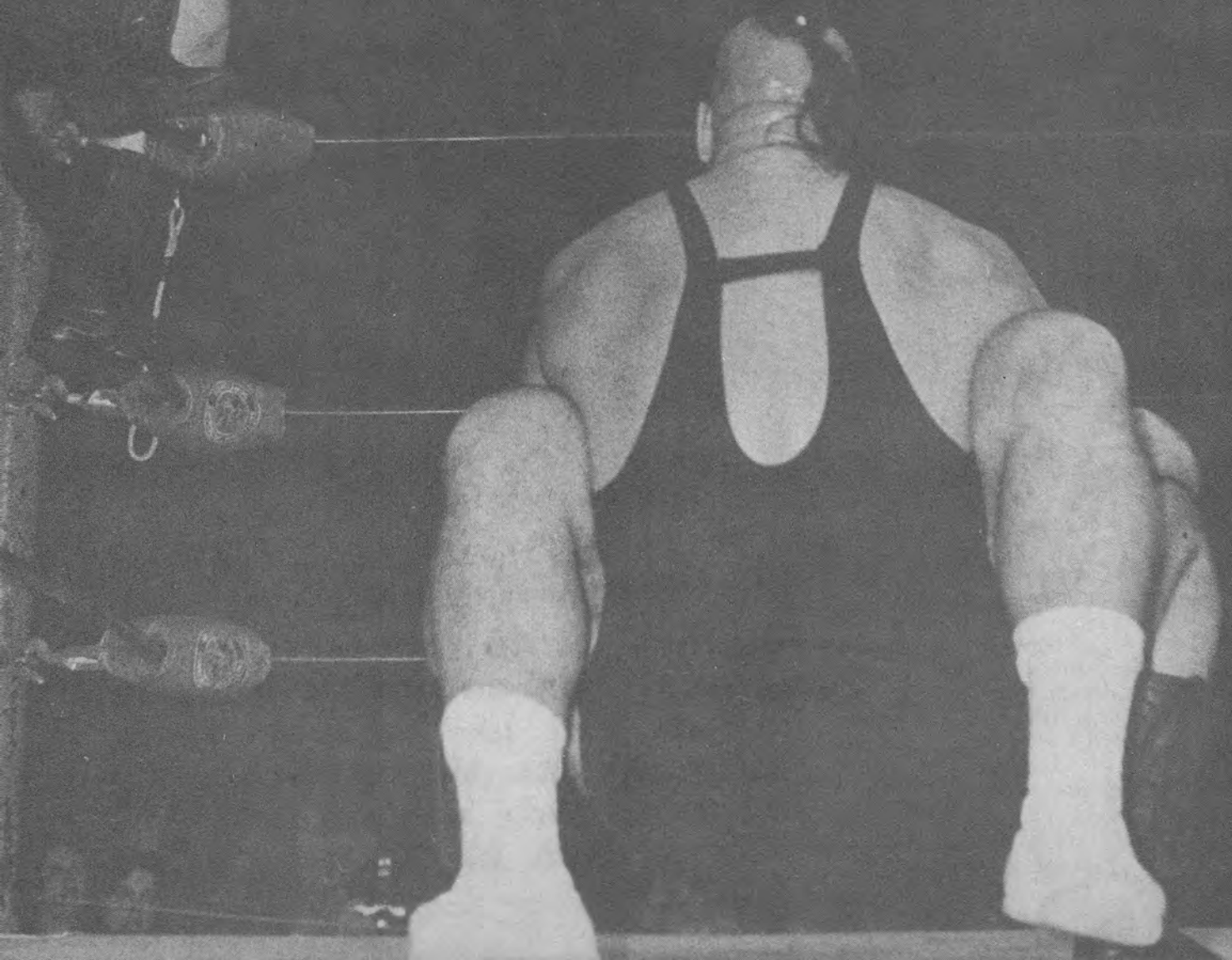
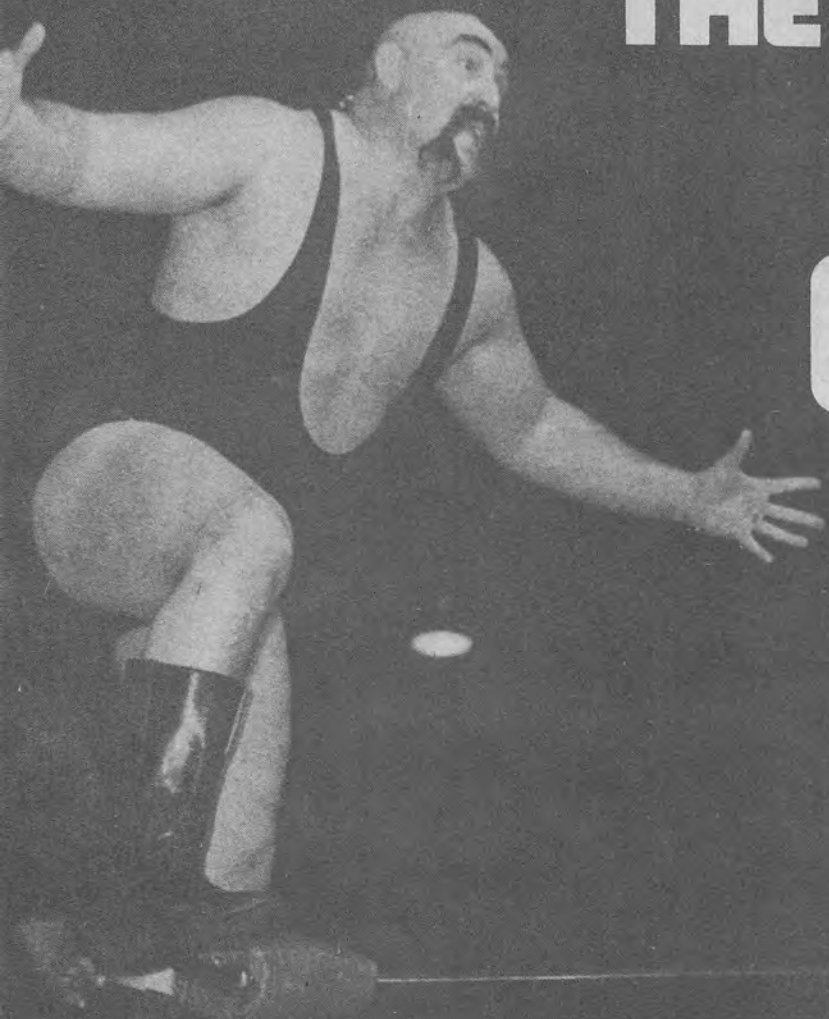
*(Continued on page 63)*



Exclusive Photos By Tony Lanza

**Rumors of a three-man plot against him do not bother Joe LeDuc. Not in the least. And although the three men after his hide are dangerous, Joe only smiles and says "Bring 'em on!"**

# THE MONGOLS ARE BACK!







*Under the tutelage of notorious Boris Malenko (left), the hated Mongols have swept the NWA area with a reign of bloody horror. Even a veteran like Swede Hanson has trouble just surviving against this pair (below). No wonder the Mongols are said to be future champs!*



*Left: Captured by Bolo Mongol, Danny Miller is helpless to get away from the leaping Geto Mongol late in their match. Danny was lucky not to suffer any permanent injury. Right: It usually takes two to stop a raging Mongol!*



**T**HE TIME HAD come. Fans waited nervously for the announcement. There was an expectant, tense quiet—the type which always preludes important events. To the fans present, this would be an evening to always remember. The Mongols were now wrestling in the NWA.

Even the vendors selling food and programs went quiet. No one can escape the intense power of the silence. No one is immune to its excitement. The return of the Mongols created such a mood.

Every person in the arena had seen the Mongols wrestle often. Each had his own personal memory best illustrating the tag team's savagery. All memories included the piteous screams of a man being mangled for life. A stretcher was a common sight after the Mongols wreaked their havoc.

The fans knew this would be a brutal exhibition of wrestling cruelty. The Mongols were always a continuous whirlwind of fury, torturing opponents with a demonic glee. Every fan knew the unique sensation of an explosion in the pit of his stomach which comes from watching the Mongols when they have gone berserk. It's a strange thrill, and many are ashamed of it later. But they crave to experience it again.

"It's like seeing everything you've ever feared or hated," says Sean Delius, a veteran wrestling fan. "The Mongols are what I'm afraid would happen to me if I was ever left in the jungle. They're the ugly animal side of all of us. Watching them lets us see the worst in ourselves. I may be ashamed of it, but I'm also fascinated by it. When the Mongols get beaten, it's like a triumph over something horrible inside of me. When they win, which is unfortunately often, I leave the arena trembling."

Though most wrestling fans couldn't identify their attraction to the Mongols with Delius' perception, they can't seem to resist watching them. When the Mongols were wreaking havoc in the IWA as the association's tag team champions, fans flocked to

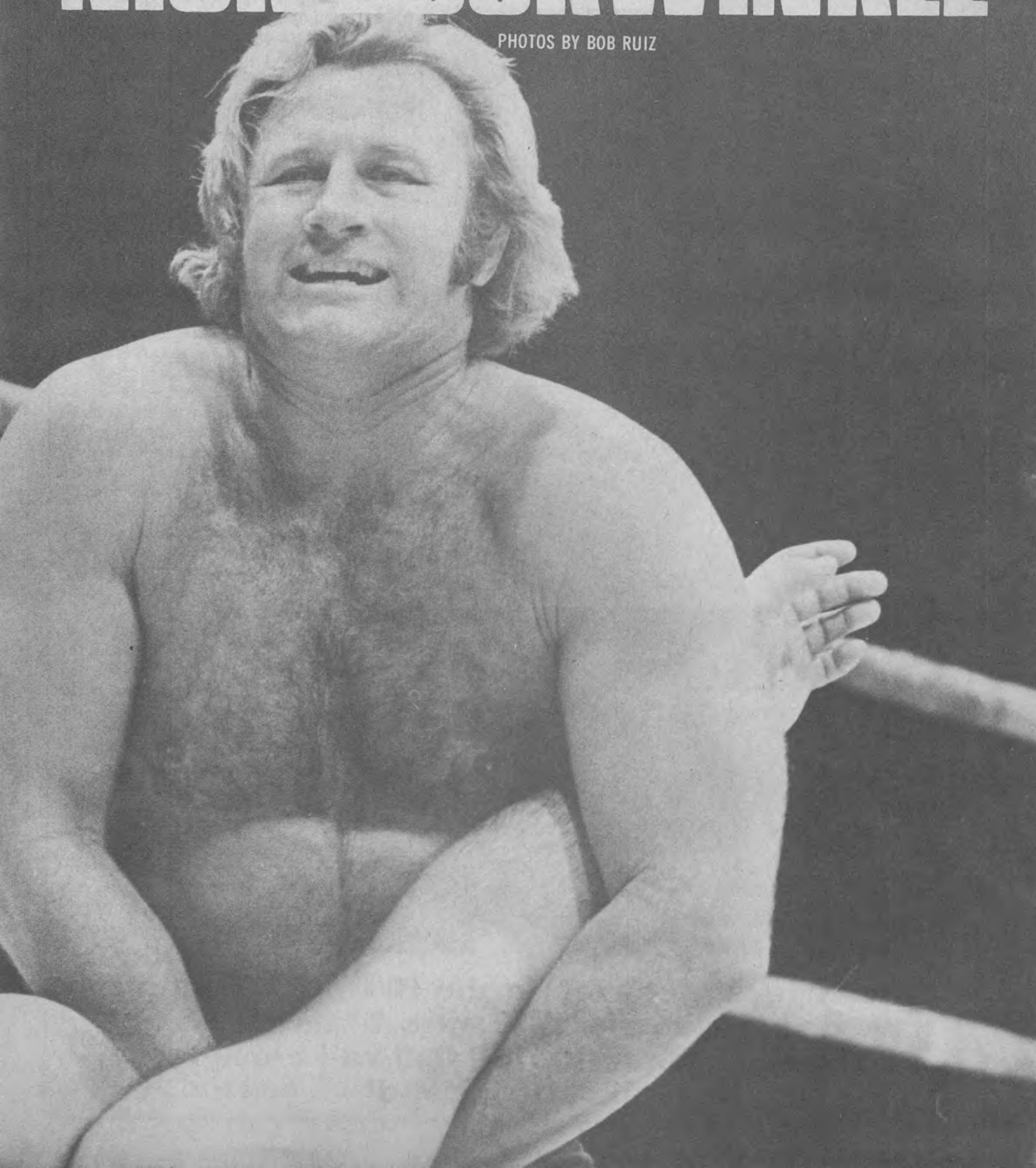
*(Continued on page 52)*

**After wreaking havoc in the IWA, the Mongols have returned to the NWA wars. If the past is any indication of the future, all hell will break loose in the new Mongol battleground!**

PHOTOS BY BILL JANOSIK

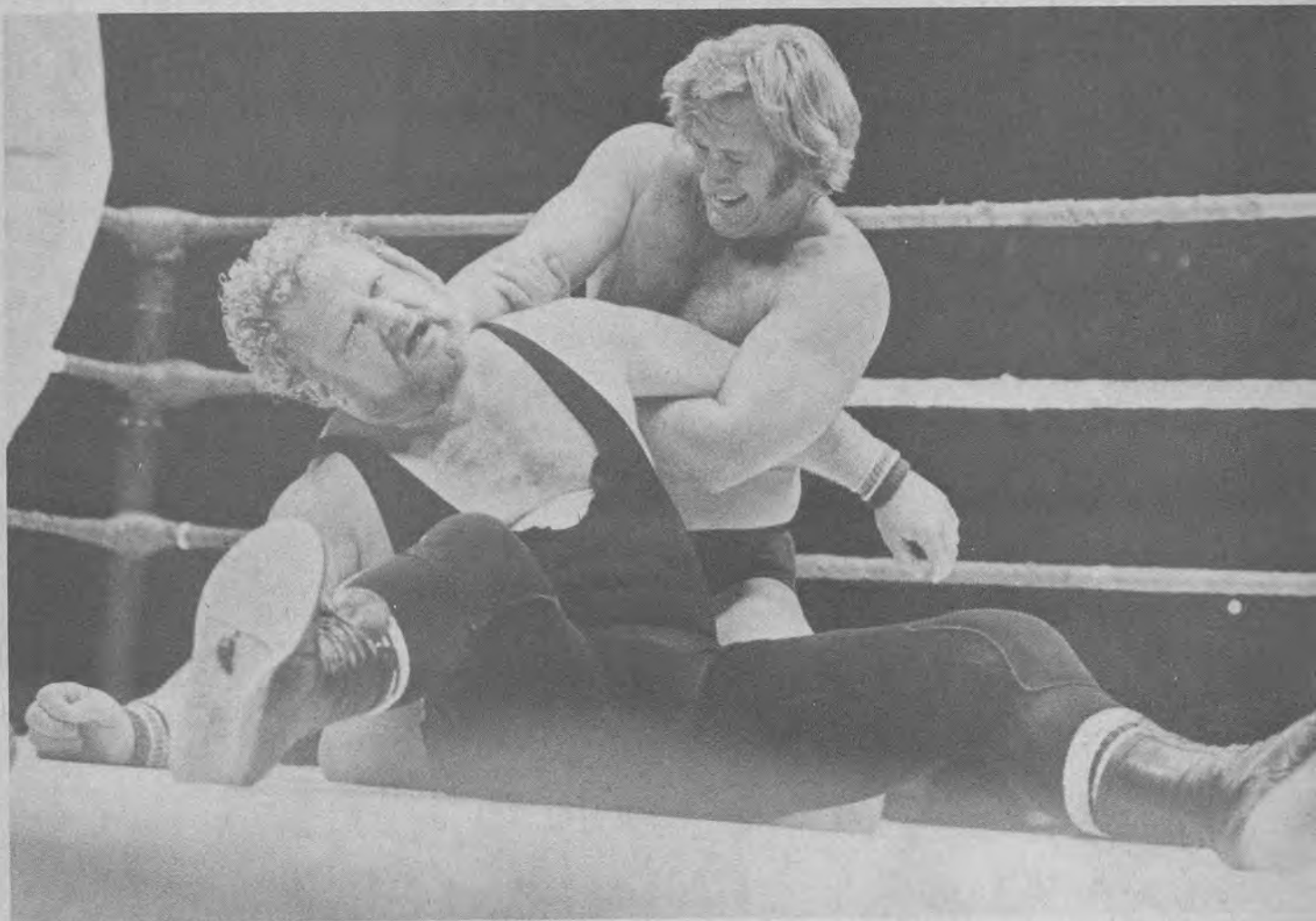
# THE BELT FINALLY FITS NICK BOCKWINKLE

PHOTOS BY BOB RUIZ





**Nick Bockwinkle has surprised everyone by retaining the AWA title belt in defense after defense. There are some very strange reasons behind his startling success!**



*Left, opposite page: Nick is the epitome of a confident and reckless champion as he puts his foe in an armlock. Above: Larry Hennig groans from the pain of Bockwinkle's famous, crippling figure four armlock.*

**I**T'S NO SECRET many fans were betting Nick Bockwinkle's title reign would be one of the shortest in wrestling history. When he won the AWA championship from Verne Gagne, some felt Bockwinkle would hold the belt only until his next match. It was only a matter of time.

Time, and Bockwinkle, have proven everyone wrong. Again and again—with illegal help of manager Bobby Heenan—Nick has turned back opponent after opponent. It appears Bockwinkle is a champion to be seriously reckoned with.

Most people dismissed Bockwinkle due to the suspicious events surrounding his ascension to the

title. Heenan had obviously interfered when the legendary Gagne went down to defeat. The special referee, Paul Perschmann, was a friend of Nick's, always willing to overlook his buddy's flagrant fouling. When Gagne hoped to bring a film of the match to the commissions to prove he was robbed, the film mysteriously was lost in processing. There was nothing Gagne could do but accept the fact he was now an ex-champion.

"Wait until he's in a fair match," Verne angrily told reporters. "The first man he meets in a fair match will become the new champion. I only hope it's me. Bockwinkle is a disgrace to the belt I've cherished."

Everyone waited for that first match. When it was over, everyone was stuffing crow into their mouths; Bockwinkle had conquered. He was still the champion.

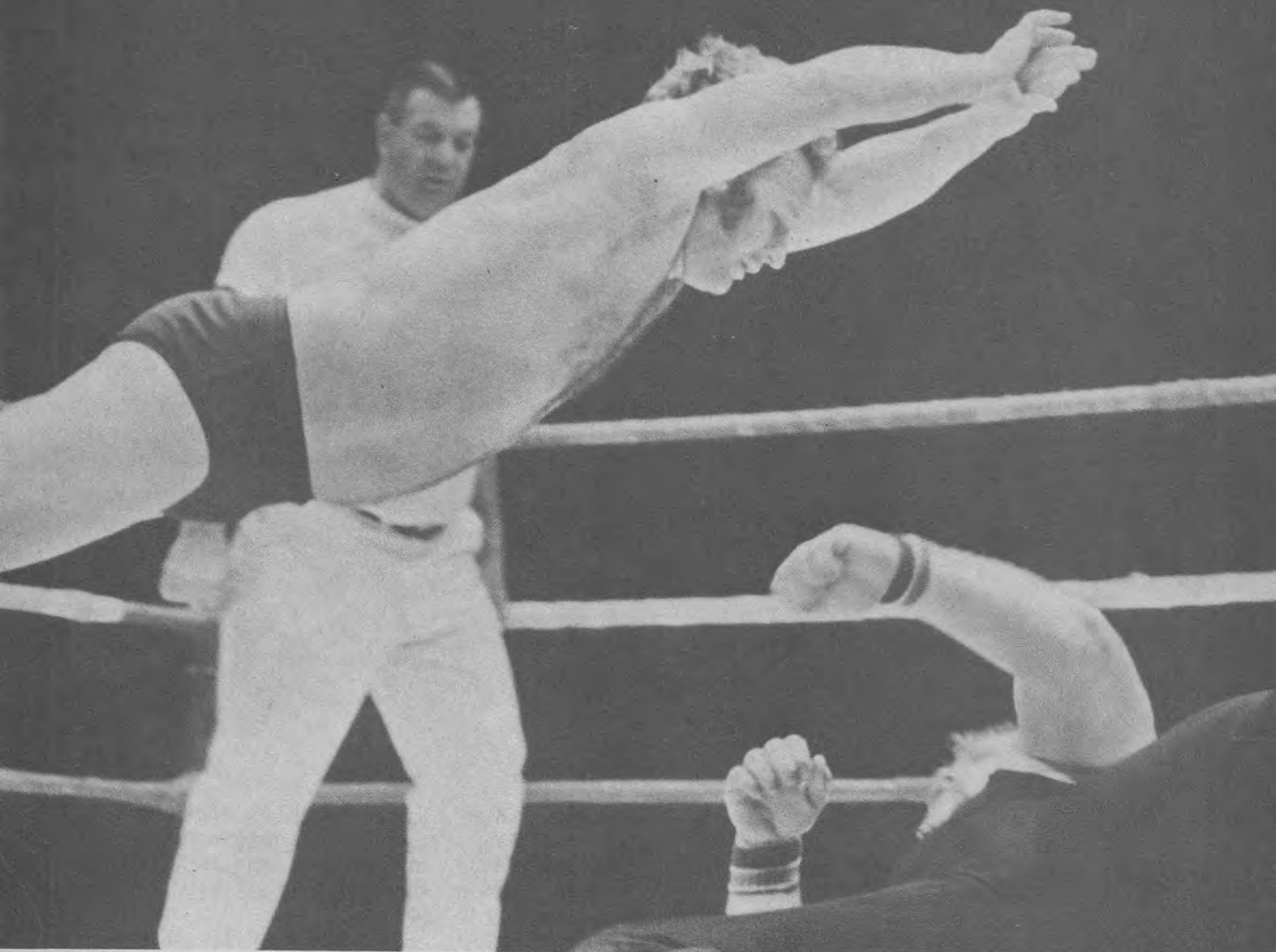
Match after match, Bockwinkle remained champion. If things

looked tough for Nick, he could always count on Heenan to cleverly interfere. They appeared invincible. However, the biggest shock was yet to come.

As time went on, Bockwinkle began to rely less and less on his manager. One sensed the difference before it was visible. There was certain swagger about Bockwinkle, a certain air about him. Nick Bockwinkle started to look like a champion!

"The difference is shocking," Verne Gagne admitted recently. "I can pick it out because I know what to look for. Note the way he climbs into the ring. Nick was always a shady character, nervously checking out the arena before a match. He was always expecting something dirty to happen. Even when he shared the tag team championship with Ray Stevens, he never really entered the arena like a champ."

*Continued*



"Now he walks in like he owns the place. He realizes the special aura surrounding a champion. He realizes everyone is envious and just a little bit in awe of him. It's a very heady feeling. You begin to believe no one can beat you. And there's every reason to believe this. After all, you're the champion."

Other wrestlers have mentioned the same thing. Bockwinkle has changed and their relationship with him has changed also. He gets the special attention a champion naturally enjoys. Nick Bockwinkle knows he's someone special.

Seeing him prepare for a match is an unforgettable sight. Bockwinkle stands tall and proud in the center of

the room. Heenan continually circles him, chanting a wierd litany of praise.

"Before me stands the champion of the world," Heenan says over and over, "the champion of the entire civilized world. There is no man his equal—no man fit to challenge him. When he walks into the arena, people are stunned. They see before them a CHAMPION!"

"Few men in the world ever become champion. Anyone who wins the title is a member of a special race, a superman. He is the best. No one can approach him. He's the best."

After this goes on for about 15 minutes, Bockwinkle strides over to

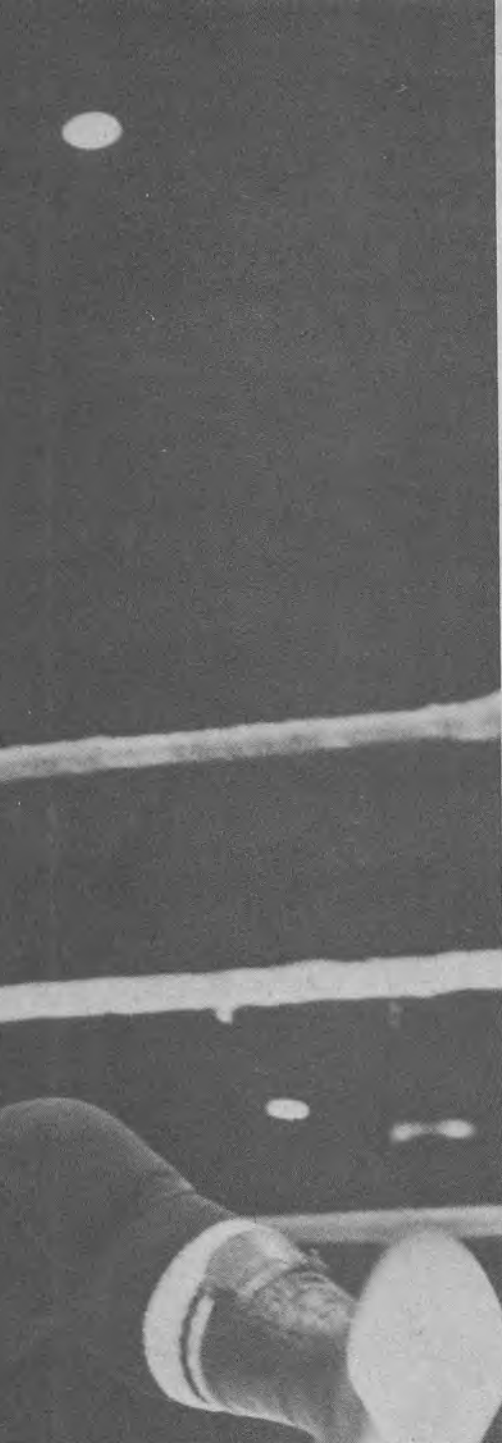
the mirror and stares happily at his reflection. He reeks confidence as he talks to the image staring back at him.

"I'm Nick Bockwinkle," he says, his voice growing progressively louder, "I'm AWA champ Nick Bockwinkle. I'm wrestling champion of the world. I've beaten the best. I'm AWA champion; champion of them all. All fans before me. I'm AWA CHAMPION! I AM THE CHAMPION!"

By the time this finishes, Bockwinkle's eyes sparkle and his step is light. He believes in his invincibility. He believes he is champion.

When he enters the arena, fans loudly boo his appearance. He's far





*Left: Bockwinkle's body is a lithe rocket of muscle as he crashes down on Larry Hennig. Once again, Nick retains the AWA title most supposed he would lose within a few months. Above: As Hennig lies on the canvas, captive of Bockwinkle, the referee warns Nick not to wrench Larry's arms too far back. Nick likes breaking arms!*

past caring. He laughs at them. After all, he's the champion. They paid to get in. He was being paid a lot of money to be there—the fans' money.

No man can stand across the ring from Bockwinkle and be unaffected by his presence. He radiates confidence. He knows the rules favor the champion, and so do his opponents. It's enough to make any opponent develop a small pit of fear in the bottom of his stomach. Once it's there, nothing can make it go away.

Don't suppose for a moment Bockwinkle's pride clouds his judgement. He remains one of the most ruthlessly cunning men ever to enter the squared circle.

There are no questionable tricks he hasn't either learned or devised himself. He knows exactly how to maneuver an unsuspecting opponent into a Heenan trap. The two men have turned interfering into an ugly art. Even the most conscientious referee is unable to stop them.

Opponent after opponent has fallen to the new AWA champion. Bockwinkle seems unbeatable at this moment. Even Verne Gagne has been stymied in attempts to regain the title.

"Bockwinkle will never bring honor to the AWA title," says Billy Robinson, who has unsuccessfully struggled for years to achieve the

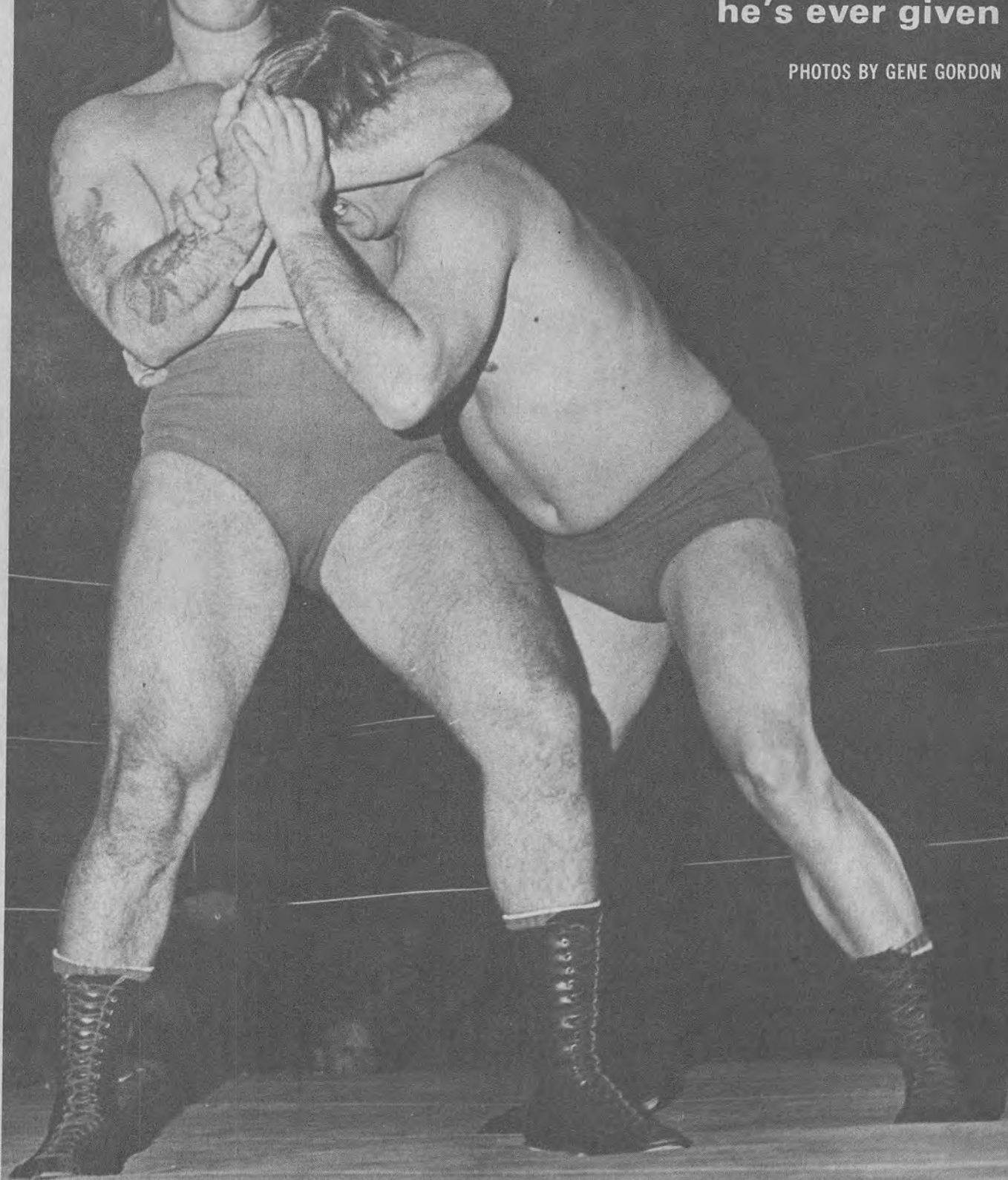
honor. "Heenan's interference is the main reason he still has the belt. Bockwinkle's a trickster, not a champion.

"Sooner or later, I'll devise some way of stopping Heenan's interference. In that match, Bockwinkle goes down to defeat. He's not a champion. He's a cheater: It's a disgrace he's allowed to wear the belt. I live for the day he no longer does."

Many wrestlers share Robinson's hope. However, Nick Bockwinkle remains the champion. It will take more than talk to defeat him. It will require the best the top contenders have to give. Even then, it might not be enough. □

**Why is Tony Garea constantly  
on the move, fleeing from  
anyplace he might call home?  
Tony answers this question  
in the frankest interview  
he's ever given**

PHOTOS BY GENE GORDON





**T**HE MORNING WAS just like so many others; in fact, there had been too many of them. Before noon, Tony Garea made his plans for moving on.

"You can't wake up to too many mornings in one place," Tony says with a smile. "I don't want to roll out of bed and not have to think about the day. I need new surroundings and new challenges. A place is something to leave or move on to. The worst thing a place can be is familiar.

"It's funny, I left New York City because I loved it so much. In fact, the entire WWWF area will always have some special fascination to me. Have you ever travelled through the Berkshires at dawn? Or on seashore of Kennebunkport, Maine at twilight? There's no more delightfully youthful city in the world than Boston. Most men could spend their lives wrestling in that area and be happy. To be honest, liking a



*Tony Garea and Ronnie Garvin are a tangle of limbs as Tony has Garvin close to submission. Only a desperate twist by Ronnie, which risked the breaking of both his legs, allowed him to make his escape. An opponent has to take risks when wrestling Garea.*

# TONY GAREA'S RESTLESS WORLD

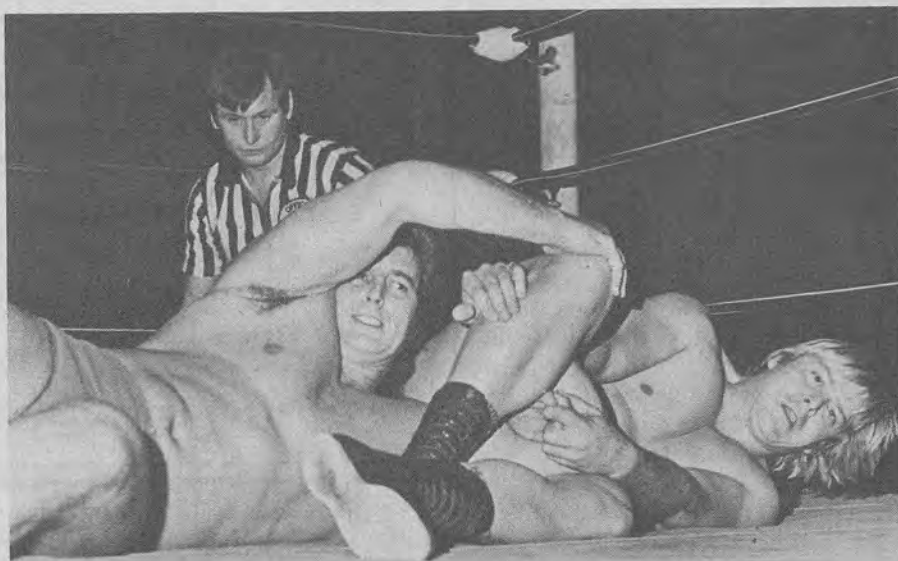
place so much scares me.

"I had to leave. I wanted to learn a new routine, not know exactly where I was all the time. If you don't have to look at a map to get somewhere, you've been there too long."

When Tony left the WWWF area, he had a difficult time explaining his reasons for going. Most men who spend their lives in one place can't understand wanderlust. They tried to talk him out of leaving, but Tony was deaf to their pleas. Garea regrets there still exists some rancor between him and some promoters who felt betrayed by his leaving.

"When people think you owe them something," Tony says, "it's the best time to leave. Relationships become complicated then you can never free yourself of them. That's the best reason I know to leave!"

Tony traveled south from the  
(Continued on page 54)



*Tony uses all his strength to work on weakening Garvin's legs as Ronnie tries to squirm free. Both bodies are straining from the exertion expended. It's a testament to both men's remarkable physical condition that they could wrestle after this encounter.*

# HOTSEAT

## RIC FLAIR: "MY HOBBY IS BEATING UP OPPONENTS"

**H**IS WRESTLING'S BRIGHT-EST rookie. Impressing mat experts since the onset of his career just a few years ago, he was being compared with "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers after his first few matches. Although he never saw Buddy wrestle, he claims he is much better than Rogers ever was. He's currently after the United States heavyweight title held by Paul Jones. He might be holding it by the time you read this. He's brash, outspoken and a hell raiser. He is Ric Flair.

**Q:** Welcome to the "Hotseat," Ric.

**A:** It's about time you guys got around to me. You've been putting flunkies like Bobo Brazil, Paul Jones and that giant blob Dusty Rhodes on the hotseat. Man, you were just wasting time. Well, have no fear—Ric Flair is here. Now you can speak with someone on an intelligent level. That must be a welcome relief.

**Q:** You sure have a lot to say.

**A:** When you're on the top you should have a lot to say. And I know for a fact your readers have been begging for this opportunity to let me sound off.

**Q:** Let's begin with the subject of Paul

Jones.

**A:** You want to make me sick this early in the interview?

**Q:** Jones has had some real wars against you. He doesn't respect you at all, Ric. How do you feel about him?

---

**"**  
**Paul Jones is  
so incredibly jealous  
of my  
superior talents  
he's afraid to step  
into any arena  
where I am!  
He's the low man  
on the totem pole!**  
**"**

---

**A:** That was answered a minute ago. He makes me sick. Paul Jones is so incredibly jealous of my superior talents he's afraid to step into any arena where I am. Jones talks big. He brags he's the number one wrestler in the world. I have news for him, man. He's the low man on the totem pole. And right there

next to him is that crazy Indian headhunter Wahoo McDaniel.

**Q:** Ric, Wahoo follows the rules. You don't.

**A:** I follow my own rules. McDaniel is a dummy. He thinks he can win matches by making the fans root for him. Ha! Wahoo McDaniel is one Indian who belongs back on the reservation weaving baskets.

**Q:** What about Dusty Rhodes?

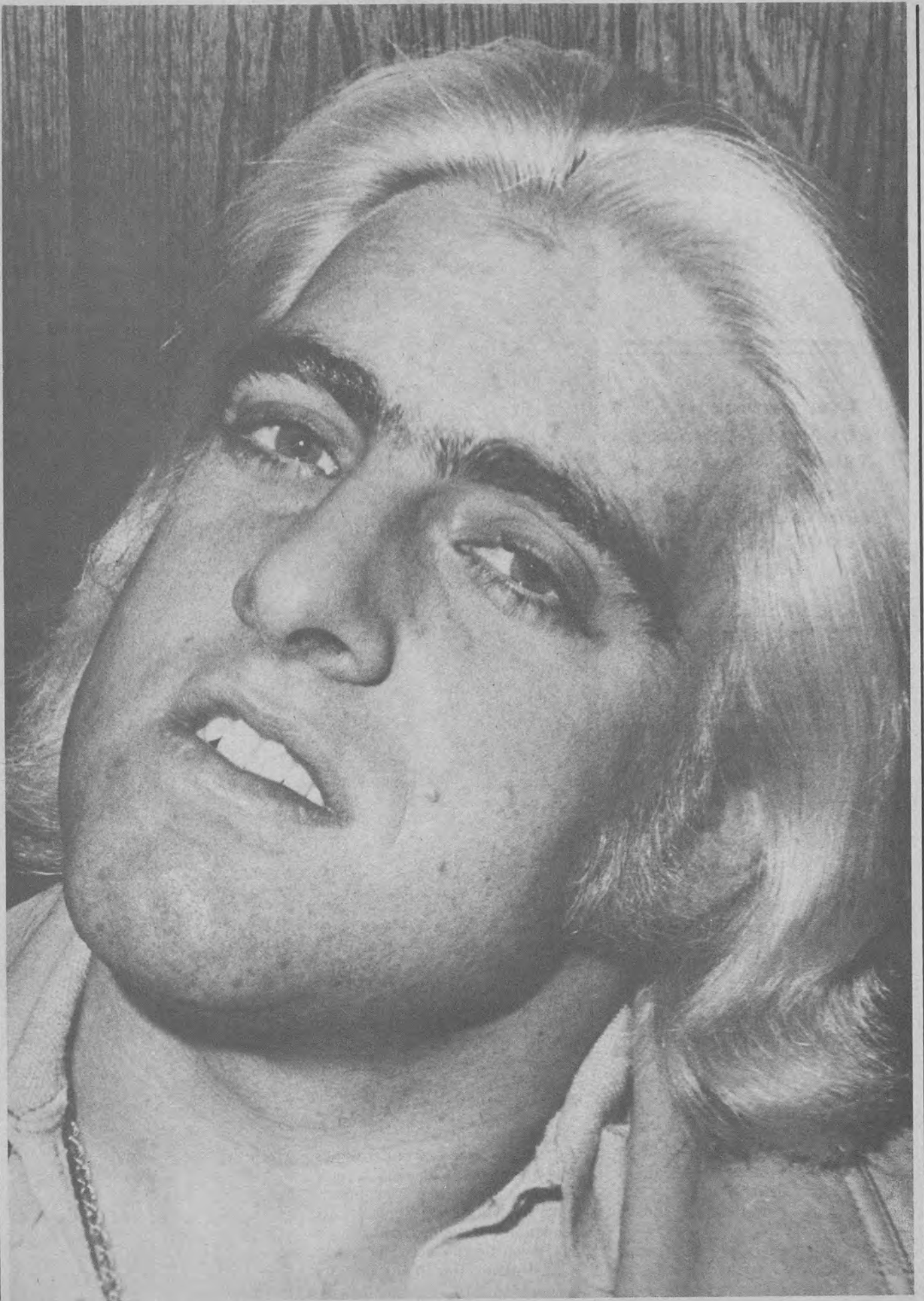
**A:** What about him? He's a whale. I harpooned that thing that calls himself The American Dream. I've beaten Rhodes so many times it's pathetic. If that's what an American Dream is, everyone should pack up and go to another country. If you want to talk about American Dreams, talk to me.

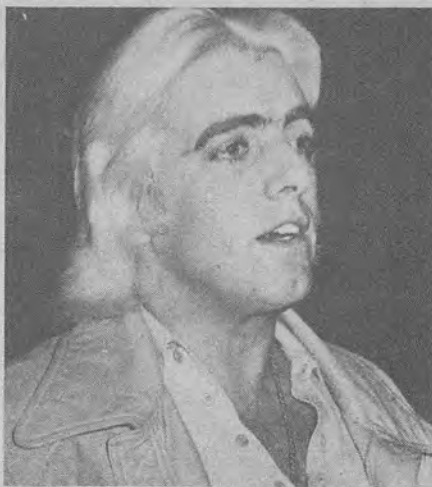
**Q:** What makes you think you're more of an American Dream than Dusty?

**A:** Just look at me. Look at the way I inspire people. Notice the way broads flock around me. Man, if I ran for President, there would only be a handful of people crazy enough not to vote for me. And Rhodes tops the list of idiots who wouldn't.

**Q:** People have compared you to Buddy Rogers, the great former







“

**I was recently up in New York City taking a look at Sammartino. I wasn't impressed. I could beat him easily!**

”

champion, now retired and . . .

**A:** Let me stop you right there. I have said many times that's a compliment. But the truth of the matter is now they're comparing Rogers to me. I have come such a long way in such a short time I even amaze myself.

**Q:** Why haven't you wrestled for a world title yet?

**A:** I will—and soon. I was recently up in New York City taking a look at Sammartino. I wasn't impressed. I could beat him easily. I just don't want to embarrass him in front of his friends by beating him. So I'll let him remain champ—at least for awhile.

**Q:** What about Terry Funk's title?

**A:** I'll get around to wrestling Terry soon. And I'll beat him.

**Q:** And Nick Bockwinkel?

**A:** I'd hate to wrestle Nick. He's my friend.

**Q:** Would you if the money was right?

**A:** I guess so.

**Q:** You don't seem so talkative now.

**A:** Let's move on to another question.

**Q:** Ric, answer the question.

**A:** Alright. I'd wrestle him. But I wouldn't like it!

**Q:** Quite some time ago you were badly injured in an airplane crash. Do you feel you were a better wres-



*Flair glories when torturing a respected veteran like Wahoo McDaniel in a headlock (above). Flair is out to get most of the top men in wrestling. In Flair's mind, that means he must cripple respected Paul Jones (right)! Flair won't be happy until he's battered every famous wrestler bloody and is acknowledged to be the most ferocious wrestler in history!*

tlar before that crash?

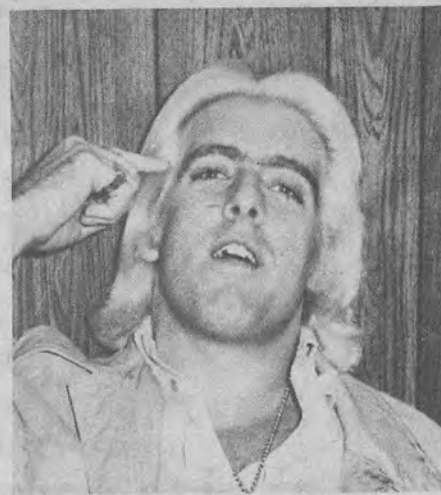
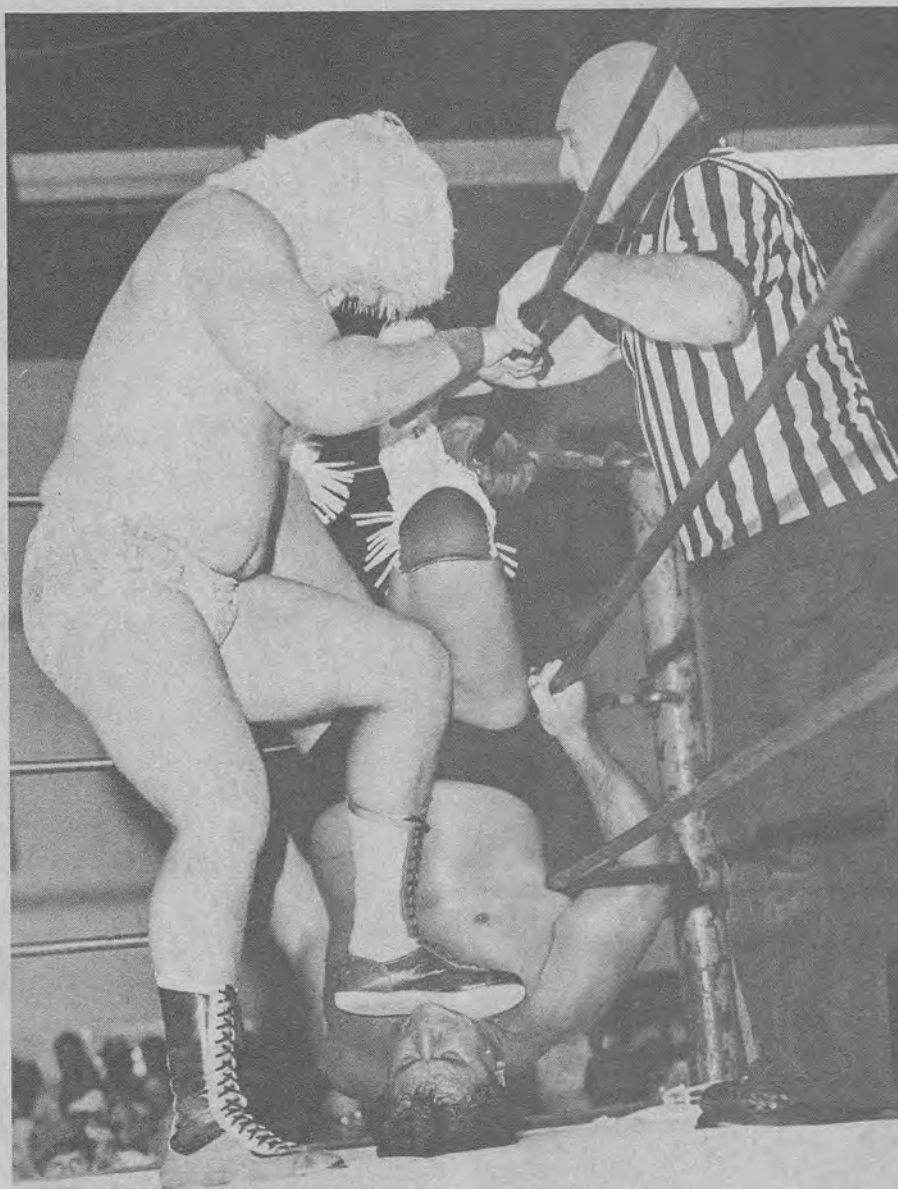
**A:** No way. I trained extra hard since the crash. It made me a new person. I'm much faster, trimmer, and have cat-like movements. To see me in the ring is beautiful.

**Q:** Have you flown since the crash?

**A:** Yes, I don't fear flying. I'll fly around the world if necessary.







**“  
There isn’t  
one wrestler in the  
entire world who can  
teach me a lesson.  
I am rougher,  
tougher, and  
greater than any  
champion!  
”**

How do you feel about that?

**A:** First of all, I’m not brash. Actually, I’m rather modest! Secondly, there isn’t one wrestler in the entire world who can teach me a lesson. I’m rougher, tougher and greater than any of those so called champions and superstars.

**Q:** Do you consider yourself a superstar?

**A:** Yes. And so do most people with any intelligence.

**Q:** What do you hope to attain in the near future?

**A:** Well, holding the Mid-Atlantic title is getting boring to me. I need a new challenge. I think I’ll beat all three champions—or two of them—all in one night. I don’t want Nick included in that list.

**Q:** You don’t really think you can beat Funk and Sammartino in one night, do you?

**A:** I never lie. I’ll lift their titles with ease.

**Q:** Well Ric, thank you.

**A:** Hey, the interview’s not over yet.

**Q:** Yes it is.

**A:** No way. It’s over when I say so.

**Q:** You’ll have to sit here alone, then.

**A:** Oh, go bother someone else! For the first time in your life you’re dealing with class—and you can’t handle it! □



*Above: Only the most despicable wrestler would dare to stomp on the throat of a helpless foe. Flair gleefully pounds the sole of his foot hard onto helpless Wahoo McDaniel’s neck, an ugly move typical of Flair’s mat tactics. Left: His ego as swollen as a balloon about to burst, Ric parades around the ring with fans’ admiring sign.*

**Q:** What are Ric Flair’s hobbies?

**A:** My hobby is beating up opponents.

**Q:** We’re speaking of hobbies, Ric.

**A:** So am I. It’s a great pastime bustin’ bones and breaking ribs. It’s rewarding too.

**Q:** You’re a brash guy to whom many wrestlers want to teach a lesson.

# Murdoch vs. Mulligan

## THE OUTLAW AND THE BLACKJACK

When Blackjack Mulligan wrestles Dick Murdoch, they become two powderkegs of hatred. The explosion from their latest confrontation rocked wrestling fans senseless with its fury!

PHOTOS BY BILL BEACH



*Mulligan knows he's in trouble when Dick Murdoch has him trapped in a headlock (above left). Dick then throws Blackjack to the canvas and prepares to leap on his fallen foe (above right). From there, it's less than a split-second before Dick again tortures his foe in a chinlock (right). The referee prevents any choking.*

**T**HE ELECTRIC SENSATION in the pit of his stomach was familiar to Dick Murdoch. He had felt it sizzle there many times before. He welcomed it as a soldier welcomes approaching gunfire.

The other times Murdoch had felt this way, the situation had been different. Years ago, he'd been part of the tag team, the Outlaws, with Dusty Rhodes. They'd had many

enemies in wrestling, worst being the Blackjacks. Before the match with the Blackjacks, Murdoch's belly would always begin to burn.

The Outlaws are no more. Both men have since gone on to very successful single careers. The Blackjacks still exist in all their ugly fury. One will wrestle alone to get at a foe both men despise. Blackjack Mulligan will never miss a chance

to get into the ring against either Murdoch or Rhodes. The electric burning in Murdoch's stomach was all the proof necessary that Mulligan had got his match.

"It's strange," Murdoch mused before the bout, "after all these years, I should still find either Black-





jack a man I must destroy—or be destroyed. By now, I realize it will be just another battle in a long series of battles. Nothing will be determined one way or the other—probably. But something inside of me screams this match will be the final one. Something horrible or splendid is

about to happen. I had the same feeling when the Outlaws battled the Blackjacks. Dusty tells me he has the same feeling when he wrestles Mulligan or Lanza. They possess some kind of power penetrating right into my marrow.

"I've had rougher matches

against The Blackjacks but none nastier. I feel almost like an animal against The Blackjacks; I always have. I feel like I've got to tear out whatever power they have. I've got to dominate, conquer. I've got to."

Beside the training table where

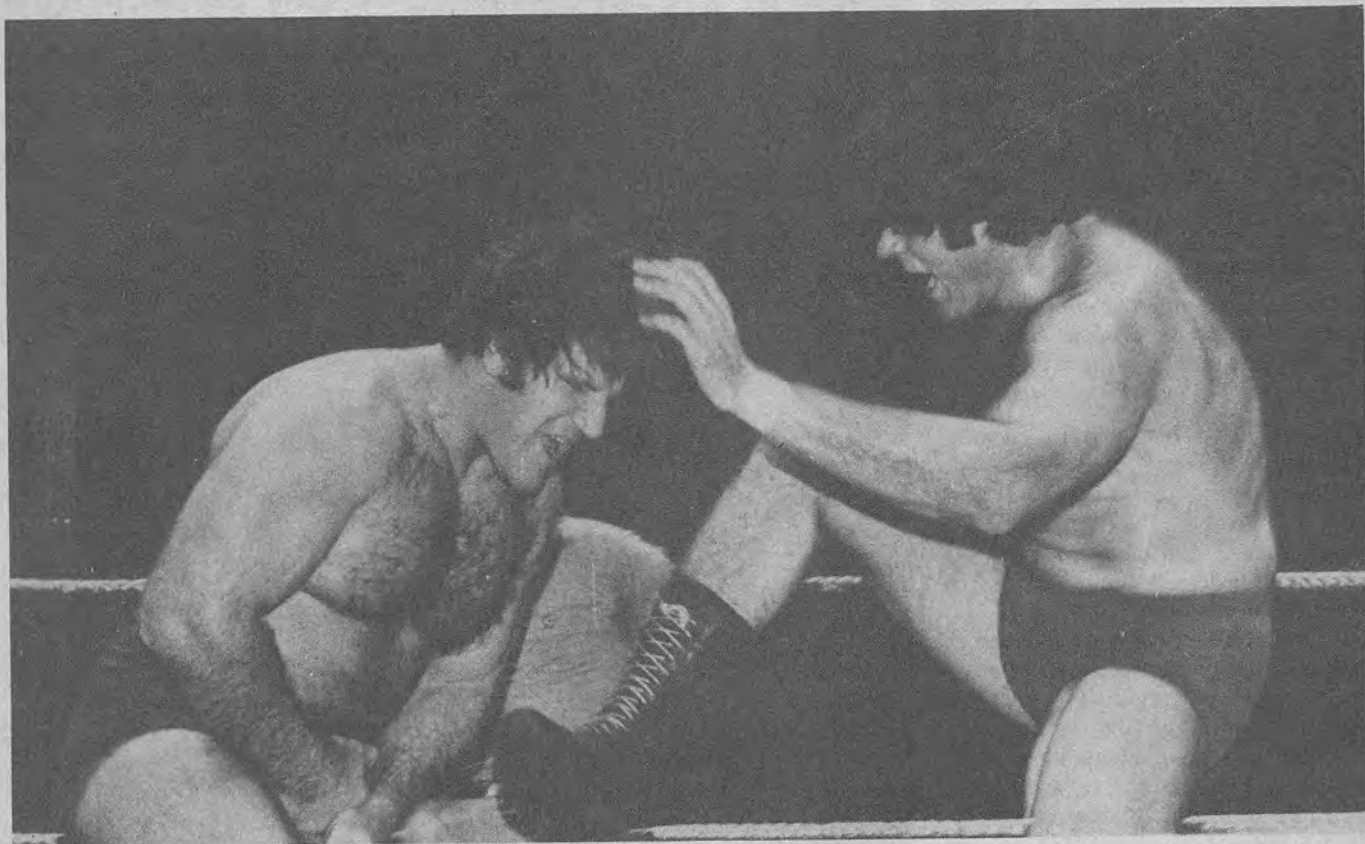
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A black and white photograph of a man with a beard and long hair, looking down. A prison guard's hand, wearing a striped sleeve, is visible on his shoulder. The text "HAS THE PUNISHMENT TAKEN ITS TOLL?" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**HAS THE  
PUNISHMENT  
TAKEN ITS  
TOLL ?**



He has battled the most dangerous men in his profession. His body has been broken and battered by ruthless opponents. Are the constant maulings finally sending Bruno Sammartino to his doom?



**T**HE BODY OF Bruno Sammartino appears to be the picture of good physical conditioning. The muscle tone is still firm. He still looks good.

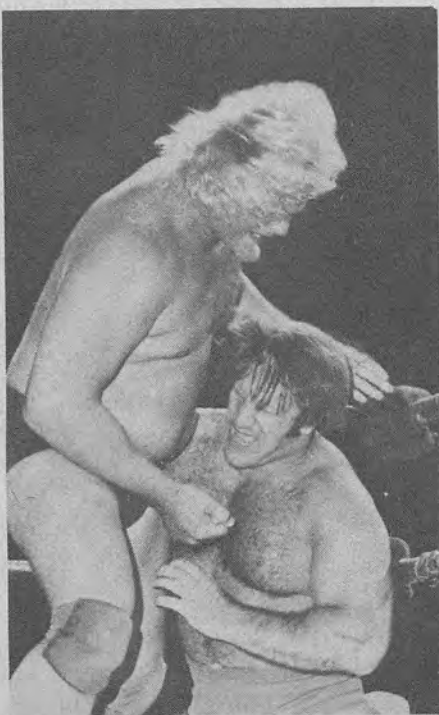
But inwardly, Bruno Sammartino may be hurting—and quite badly. His career, coupled with his hectic schedule, could be punishing him more than anything else ever has before. And his career could be the eventual cause of his downfall.

Night after night, Bruno defends the World Wide Wrestling Federation title against only the top challengers. Sammartino does not take on any preliminary wrestlers; as champion he wants to wrestle only the best. And that could be one of the reasons he may be aching.

In spite of the advice of his best friends, people who only have Bruno's best interests at heart, Bruno refuses to relax his schedule. And no matter what he may be doing to himself, Sammartino continues to battle only the toughest challengers to his title.

Unfortunately for Sammartino, the toughest challengers to his title are men known to employ illegal tactics to

*Above: Bruno Sammartino doubles over after being ruthlessly and brutally kicked in the groin by Spiros Arion. Below left: Bruno is brought to his knees from the loaded-fist punches of Bobby Duncum. Below right: Bruno takes a punch in the neck from Duncum, a blow which could cause irreparable damage to the adam's apple.*





*Locked in combat, Sammartino and Duncum try to beat each other into oblivion (above). This was typical of all bouts!*

win. They tend to be vicious, ruthless wrestlers who try to 'cripple the champion—not just take away his title.

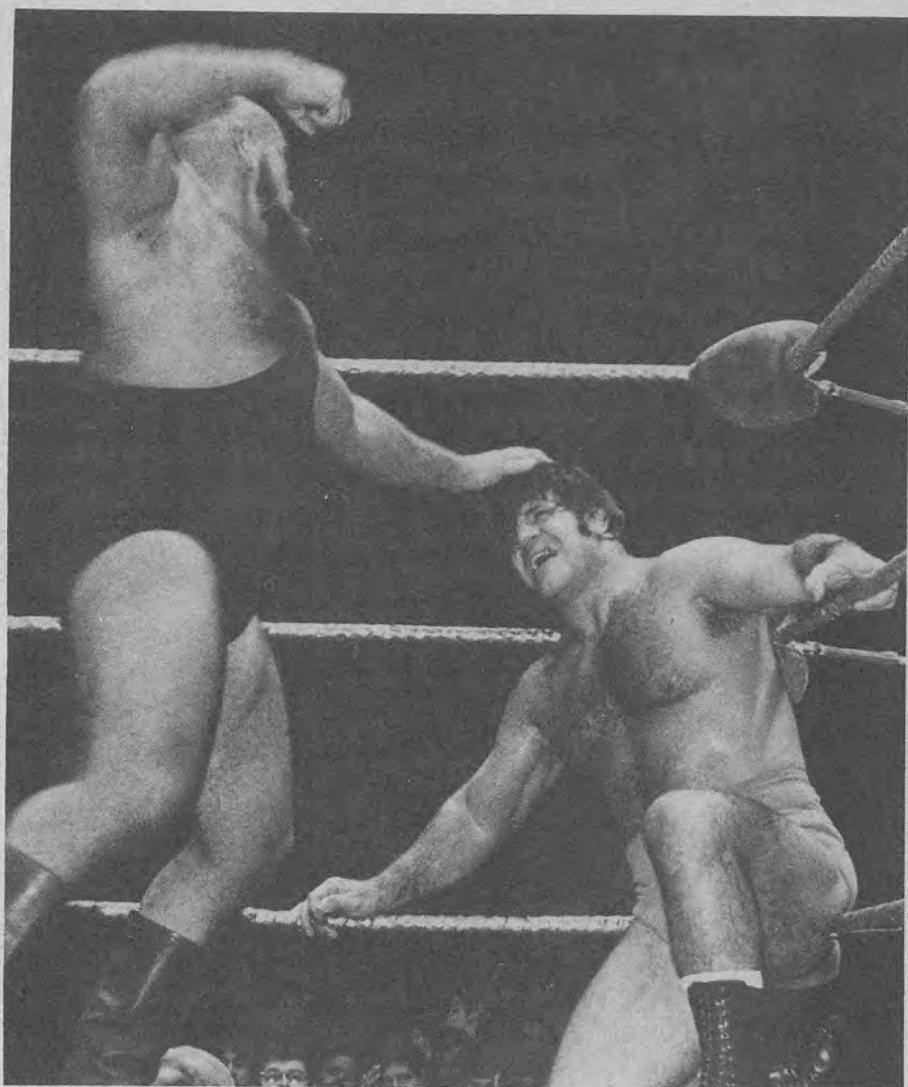
Yet Bruno continues to take the punishment, despite the toll it may be exacting on his body.

Sammartino wrestles an average of four to five nights a week. A while ago the WWWF areas suddenly were filled with top talent—and Bruno grappled all these top challengers in a short period of time.

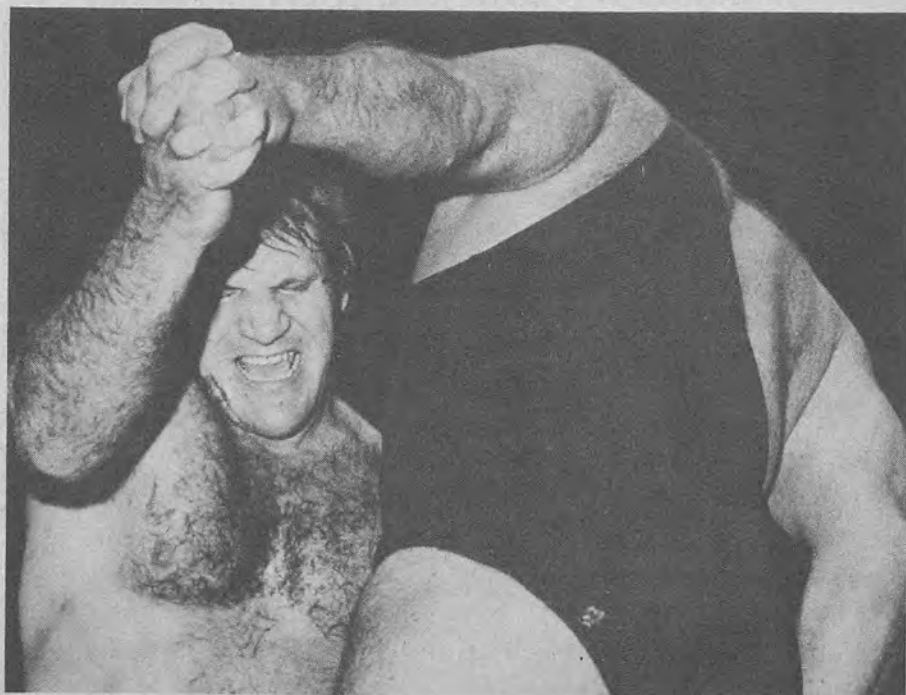
Bobby Duncum, managed by The Grand Wizard was the first of this breed of wrestlers to engage in a vicious series of brawls against Bruno. In New York, Boston, Philadelphia and other cities, Duncum battled Sammartino for the title. Some of their matches became classics. Others took on the appearance of barroom brawls, with Bobby often using one of his favorite pain-evoking tactics—tearing flesh and making Bruno bleed. Although Sammartino eventually emerged the winner of the series, Duncum's constant barrage of knee-drops and other roughhouse tactics must surely have effected Bruno's abilities.

Still Sammartino did not ease up. He felt he had to keep meeting the challengers as they arose.

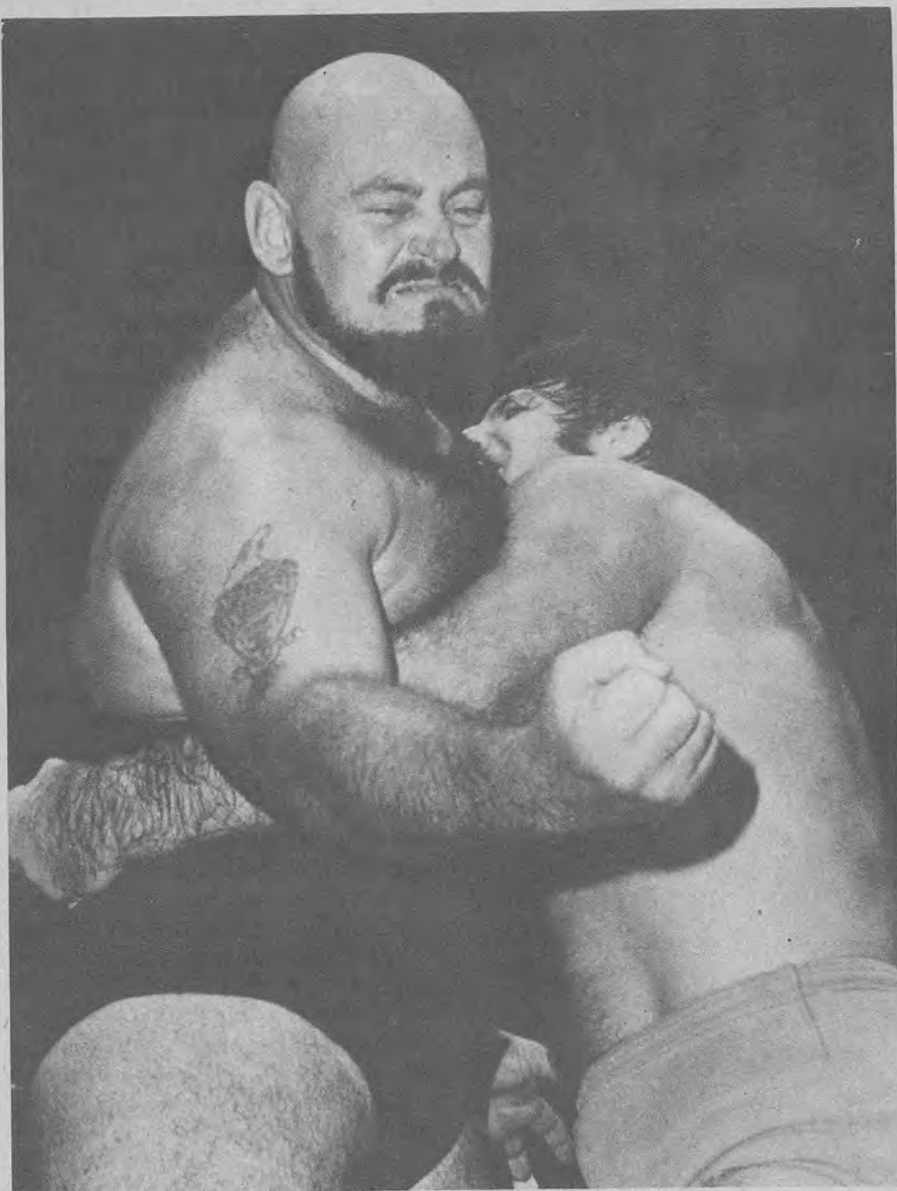
The next man to threaten Bruno was Spiros Arion who received a title shot just as the series with Duncum was winding down. Those familiar with Arion's current reputation can realize what Sammartino had to go through. Like the matches against Bobby, these confrontations saw both participants lose a large amount of blood. Again Bruno emerged the winner, but not without losing a lot of blood and



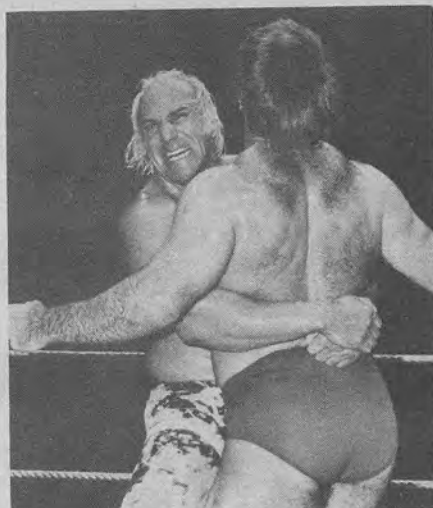
*Above: His face betraying his agony, Sammartino is pummelled by Ivan Koloff's fists late in one of their infamous brawls. The punishment exacted from Bruno during these battles is horribly incalculable. Below: Every muscle in Sammartino's body is strained to its limit in a test of strength against his foe, Ivan Koloff.*







*Though trapped in a bearhug, Koloff prepares to smash his fist into Sammartino's temple (above). Bruno is stunned by the blow; Koloff follows it up with others. Blood pours from huge gashes in Sammartino's skull. Despite these wounds, Sammartino's great pride forces him to continue and retaliate forcefully (below).*



*Bruno's ribs are tortured in the feared bearhug of notorious Superstar Billy Graham (above).*

absorbing some vicious, cruel punishment from the maniacal Greek.

But Bruno would not stop. Another challenger arose for him, and Sammartino rose to meet the challenge.

Captain Lou Albano decided to bring Ivan Koloff into the area while Bruno was still battling Arion. Koloff is the man who once beat Sammartino for the title. And he was determined to relieve Bruno of the belt one more time.

Sammartino knew he had to train especially hard for his matches against Koloff. However, he was still engaged in his series of battles with Arion, and he had just finished brawling with Duncum.

The Koloff series was a grueling one for Bruno. Strength and brute force was employed on both sides as the two foes squared off, swearing to end the other's career. Sammartino had to call upon his years of experience to deal with Koloff. Bruno barely managed to win the series and put an end to the threat Koloff posed to his title.

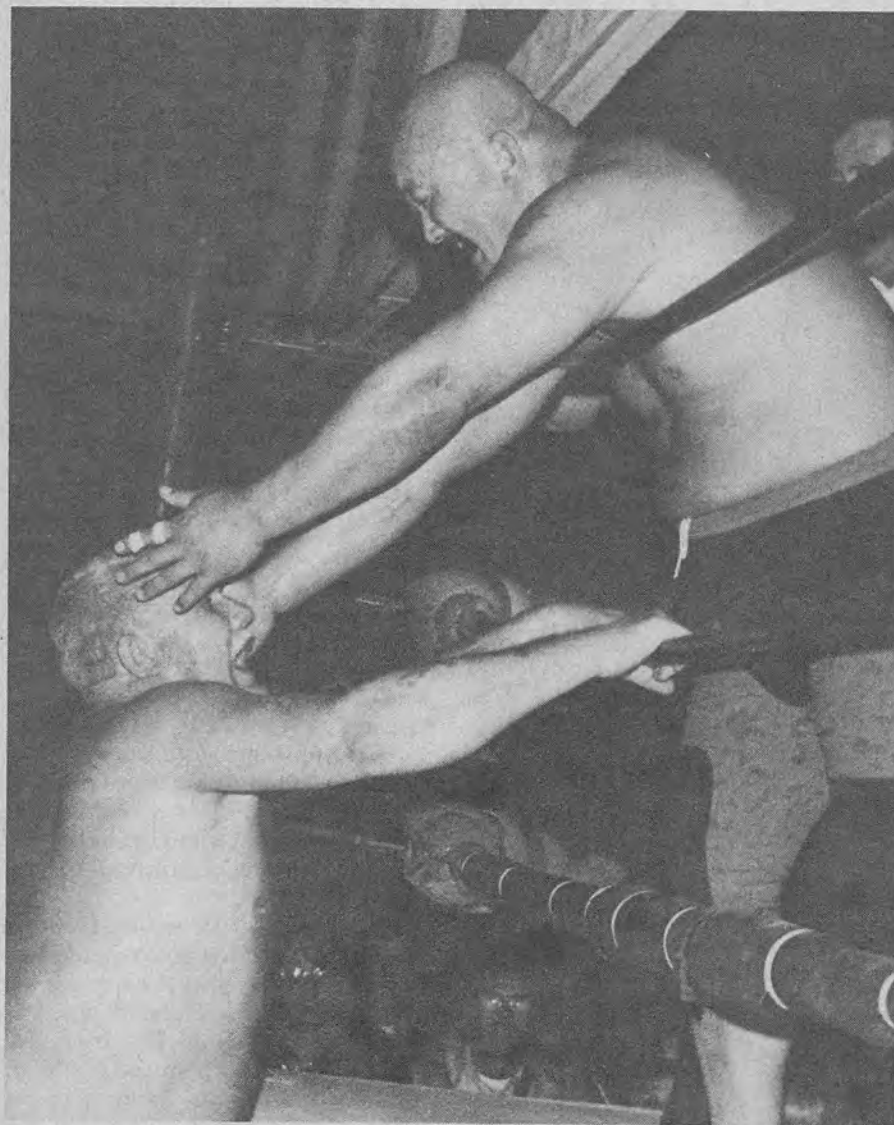
After finishing with Koloff, Sammartino should have eased up and taken life a little slower. Instead, he went with full force into the most difficult and serious challenges of his career.

Two men, each determined to take the title from Bruno, entered the WWF area. And if there were ever two men who had the abilities to remove the belt from Bruno's waist, Superstar Billy Graham and the "King of Wrestling," Ernie Ladd were the men to do it.

Superstar Graham was the man who emerged as the greatest threat to

*(Continued on page 62)*

# MR. FUGI'S SHOCKING REINCARNAT



*Though Harley Race struggles to get back in the ring, Mr. Fugi keeps him out with unconcealed glee. Only a few months before, he would have been on the worried defensive against a man like Race.*

**I**N THE MOMENTS before dawn, the streets of New York are strangely quiet. Mr. Fugi wandered those empty streets, recalling moments when he thought this city was his own. Now, it ignored him with all the disregard only a big city can achieve.

Years ago, as the tag team partner of Professor Toru Tanaka, Fugi seemed one of the most important wrestlers in the world. But on this day, the sun rose on a man not knowing what the future would bring; he was afraid of the unknown.

As the first taxi cab of the morning sped along the street, Fugi flagged it down. Moments later, the wrestler was speeding his way to Kennedy Airport. Within two hours, he was on his way to Japan.

As the jet sped toward its destination, Fugi contemplated his journey. If it ended in failure, his career was finished. Nothing had gone right for Fugi lately; his life was foundering. There was only one person in the world who could help him now.

After landing at the airport, Fugi leaped into a car and traveled to a small village five hours from Tokyo. There lived Da Kow, a man who has been mentor for many Japanese mat stars. Though he's now old and rarely leaves his home, this wizened old man has the sharpest wrestling mind in the world, at least according to the wrestlers who seek his advice.

When Fugi arrived at Da Kow's home, he was tired and stiff. What he wanted most was a shower and some sleep. What he needed immediately was Da Kow's advice.



# ION

Here is the astonishing story of Mr. Fugi's struggle back to superstardom. It is also the story of Japan's wisest wrestling strategist

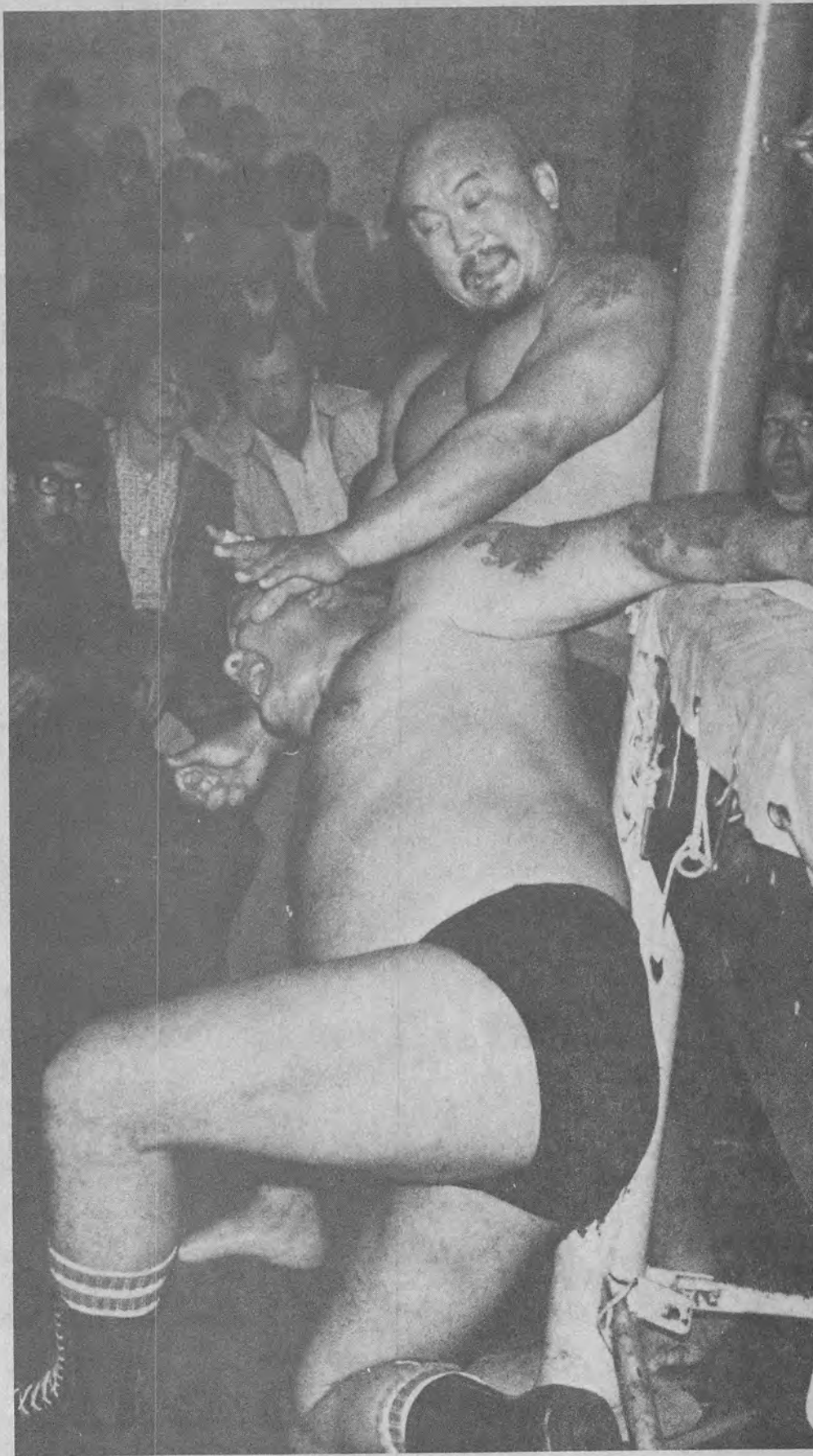
"I was expecting you," the old man intoned as Fugi sat at his feet. "Your career has not been going well—victories are hollow and defeats catastrophic. Once you made your ancestors proud. Now you seem ready to join them. It is painful. And when a professional athlete becomes pitiful, he is usually finished."

Fugi listened to every word as if it was spoken by a god. He knew this old man was his last hope.

"I can help you, Fugi," Da Kow declared, "because I have known about your problem for years. You never came to me, thinking you were great enough to not need advice. Now you know the truth, and you are here. Humbled, you can be helped."

"When you were tag partners with Professor Tanaka, he abused your talents. You were the one who made the compromises in technique to make a better tag team. Your skills became altered beyond recognition. Your

(Continued on page 60)



*Leaping out of the ring, Mr. Fugi goes after Harley Race. With a cruel smirk on his face, Mr. Fugi smashes a vicious special type of karate blow, to the temple of Race. Harley screams in agony as he crumples to the cement from the devastating agony. Race was lucky to escape without suffering any permanent brain injury.*

# ***The Destroyer's Shocking Claim:***



***“MIL MASCARAS  
IS AN  
IMPOSTER!”***



**M**IL MASCARAS STEPPED off the plane at Tokyo's Haneda Airport and saw hundreds of fans waiting for him. The moment he walked out the aircraft's door, a huge cheer arose from the crowd; wrestling fans from all over Japan had gathered at the airport to show the masked wrestler their admiration for him.

However, not everyone in that crowd was cheering for Mil Mascaras. Far off in a corner of the gate stood a tall figure, trying to obscure himself from Mil's view by hiding in the shadows. He veiled his face with a mask. The man was The Destroyer, one of the men Mil was scheduled to wrestle during this Oriental excursion; one of the men Mil had wrestled many times before during his trips to Japan.

The Destroyer watched Mil intently, studying his every gesture. The fans flocked around the Mexican masked wrestler as he strode into the terminal building. Once inside, Mil was officially greeted by a government attache, and the presidents of several of his Japanese fan clubs.

The following three days were hectic for Mil. He was given official tours by several government agencies. He met with members of his fan clubs. But there, always lurking in the shadows, was the other masked wrestler, becoming more and more angry.

At first, Mil did not suspect he was being stalked; he was simply too busy to notice the other masked man, who, for the most part, was trying to stay out of sight. Then, on the second day, Mil saw him, and immediately recognized The Destroyer. Mascaras wondered why he was being followed.

Then, on the third day of Mil's stay in Japan, all hell broke loose.

Mil was visiting one of his fan clubs that day. He had just been presented with a beautiful portrait of himself painted by one of the club's members. Suddenly, one of the Japanese wrestling promoters ran into the room, telling Mil to stop whatever he was doing and rush down to the television station. There was, he explained, serious trouble, and Mil had better be at the station to clear up the chaos.

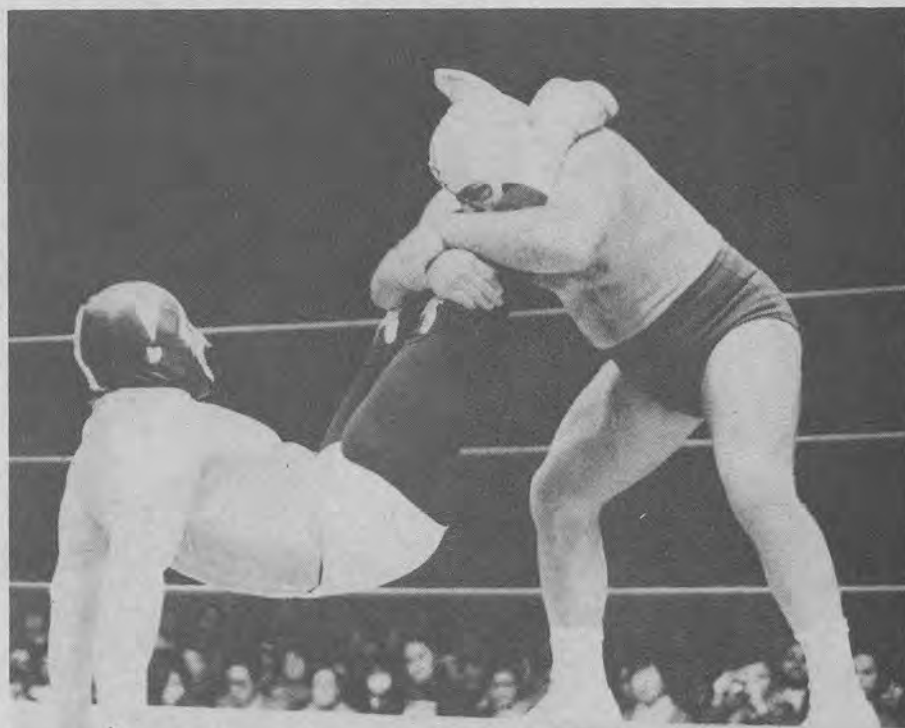
Mil arrived at the studio just as the cameras began to roll. Sitting in the studio was The Destroyer, preparing to hold a televised press conference.

"Ladies and gentlemen," he began, "you are the victims of a preposterous imposture. This Mil Mascaras, this Mexican hero accorded your adoration, is an impostor. He is

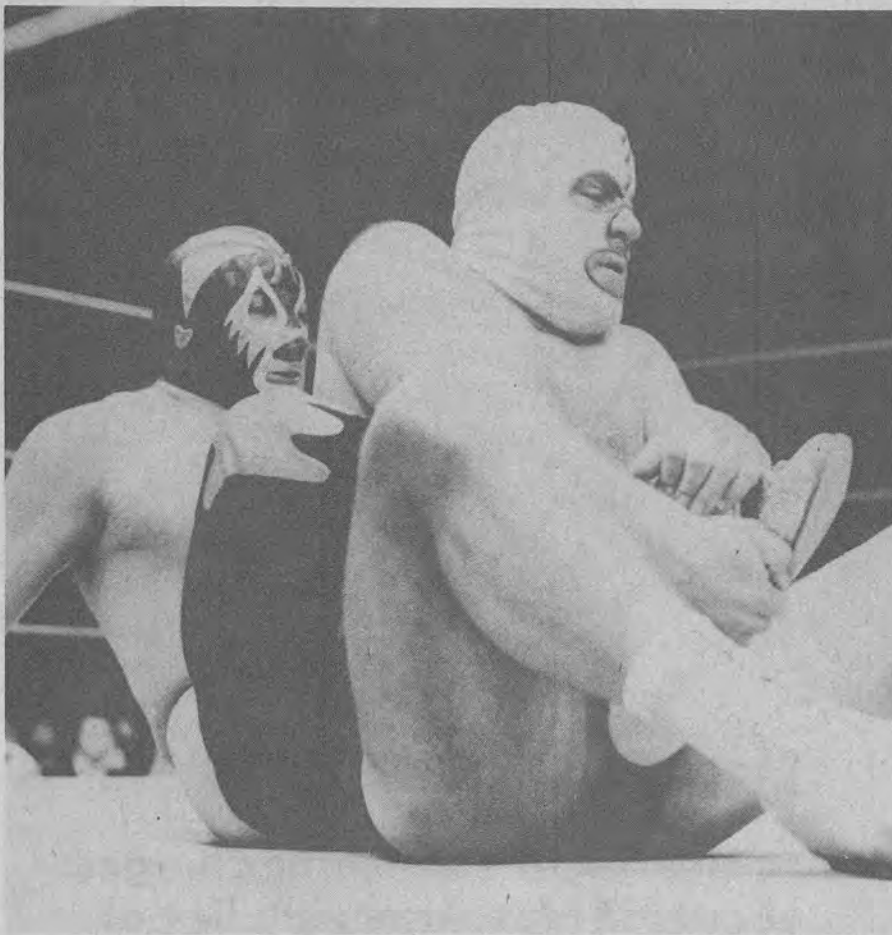


*Destroyer attempts to finish off Mascaras but is thwarted by a great bridge by Mil. Is Destroyer being beaten by his own tactics, or are those skills Mascaras learned on his own? While the great controversy rages, the two men try to settle it during combat!*

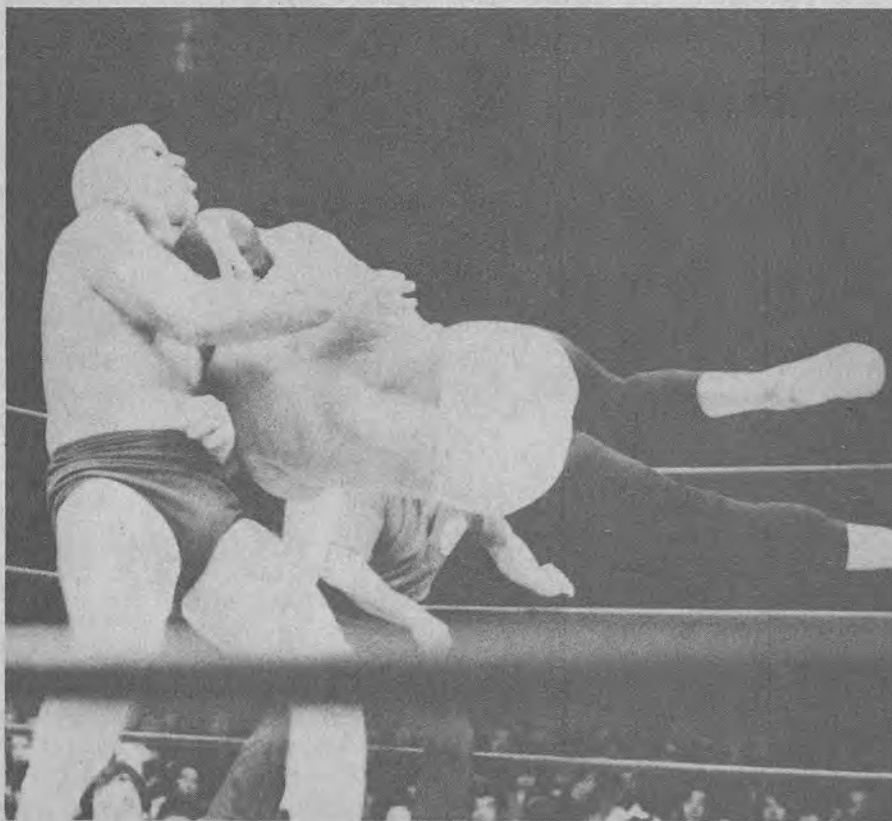
**Are Destroyer's shocking charges about Mil Mascaras ugly lies or horrifying truth? Here are the facts. Each reader must decide for himself**



*Above left, opposite page: Mil stands proudly with a painting done by one of his many fans and presented to him during his tour of Japan. Above: Grabbing Destroyer around the head with his legs, Mascaras tries to spin his masked opponent hard to the canvas.*



*Above: Mil's powerful legs wrap around Destroyer's middle like steel bands. Destroyer feels like his ribcage is about to be crushed from torturous squeezing. Only the victim's great courage prevents him from submitting. Below: His body a missile of power, Mascaras flies into Destroyer's chest, sending the masked victim hurtling into the ropes. Destroyer could barely move afterwards.*



nothing more than a poor imitation of myself.

"You may ask why I say this. Let me explain: I have been watching this masked man for the last three days—since his arrival at Haneda Airport. I now know what I have suspected since the last time I wrestled him—the man is an impostor, pretending to be a great wrestler, but in reality just someone who has taken my methods and applied them to himself.

"He uses my gestures, my wrestling techniques, and of course, my idea for using a mask. But he doesn't tell you he stole all these things from me. It was I, The Destroyer, who first made use of a mask popular in wrestling.

"I denounce this man as a fraud! He would be nothing if not for me. And there is nothing he can say in his defense!"

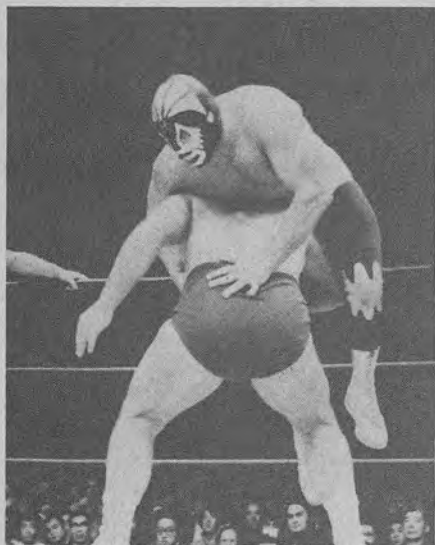
Instead of waiting to hear the rest of The Destroyer's tirade, Mil left the studio. He knew Destroyer's accusations were false. He had been wrestling in his own style for several years. He never stole any techniques or skills from The Destroyer. Any similarity between the two wrestlers was a coincidence—including the use of a mask. Mil's decision to use a mask had come from an independent idea; he had not cared who else wore a mask at the time. And Mil knew Destroyer understood all this. So why was Destroyer playing this petty game?

Mil soon realized the reasons for The Destroyer's verbal assault. And once he learned, he felt sorry for his opponent.

Mascaras has been popular with Japanese wrestling fans since the first time he battled in that country. Each time he returned, the throngs of fans flocking to see him doubled. He soon became the most popular wrestling idol of non-Japanese heritage in Japan. Therefore, it was not usual for Mil to wrestle against Destroyer, who was, after all, another top wrestler in Japan.

But their last match had been different from previous ones. Mil was more popular than ever, and The Destroyer resented this. This last match had been a fierce competition, ending in defeat for The Destroyer just seconds before the time limit. But something else happened at that match—Destroyer developed a severe case of jealousy. The Destroyer feared he had lost his fans to Mil Mascaras, and now he wanted them back. And the only way to have them return to him was to publicly denounce Mil.





*Mascaras desperately tries to devise an escape as Destroyer lifts him high in the air and prepares to send him flying.*

Therefore, Destroyer went through with his plans for a televised press conference.

The masked Mexican wrestler tried to telephone Destroyer to assure him he had no intentions of taking away any of Destroyer's fans. But the man would not accept any of Mil's calls. In fact, he made it quite clear to Mascaras there would be no communication until they met in the wrestling arena.

Spectators filled the vast arena. They sat politely through the preliminary events, but they were all there to see one match—the one between Mil and The Destroyer. All the fans had heard Destroyer's claims on television, and they wanted to see for themselves whether the accusations were true.

First Destroyer, then Mil Mascaras entered the arena. The fans were strangely silent. Suddenly, a fan in the back shouted, "Mil, are you really an imposter?"

The remark caused minor chaos. A shouting match broke out between Destroyer's supporters and Mil supporters. It was not until the opening bell rang the crowd lapsed back into relative calm.

Spectators were suddenly awed by what they were witnessing—a remarkable display of wrestling abilities. Both men were at the peak of their skills that night. The action became extremely heated when Mil was awarded the first fall. Then Destroyer battled back valiantly and won the second fall. Bravely, the two exhausted men grappled to win the final fall. But soon, it was clear Mil had control.

In order to save face, The Destroyer



*Destroyer is the victim of a great airplane spin by Mil Mascaras (above), leaving Destroyer weak and groggy. From this point, Mascaras uses his skill and cunning to become the winner of the first fall (right). Destroyer would go on to capture the second fall.*

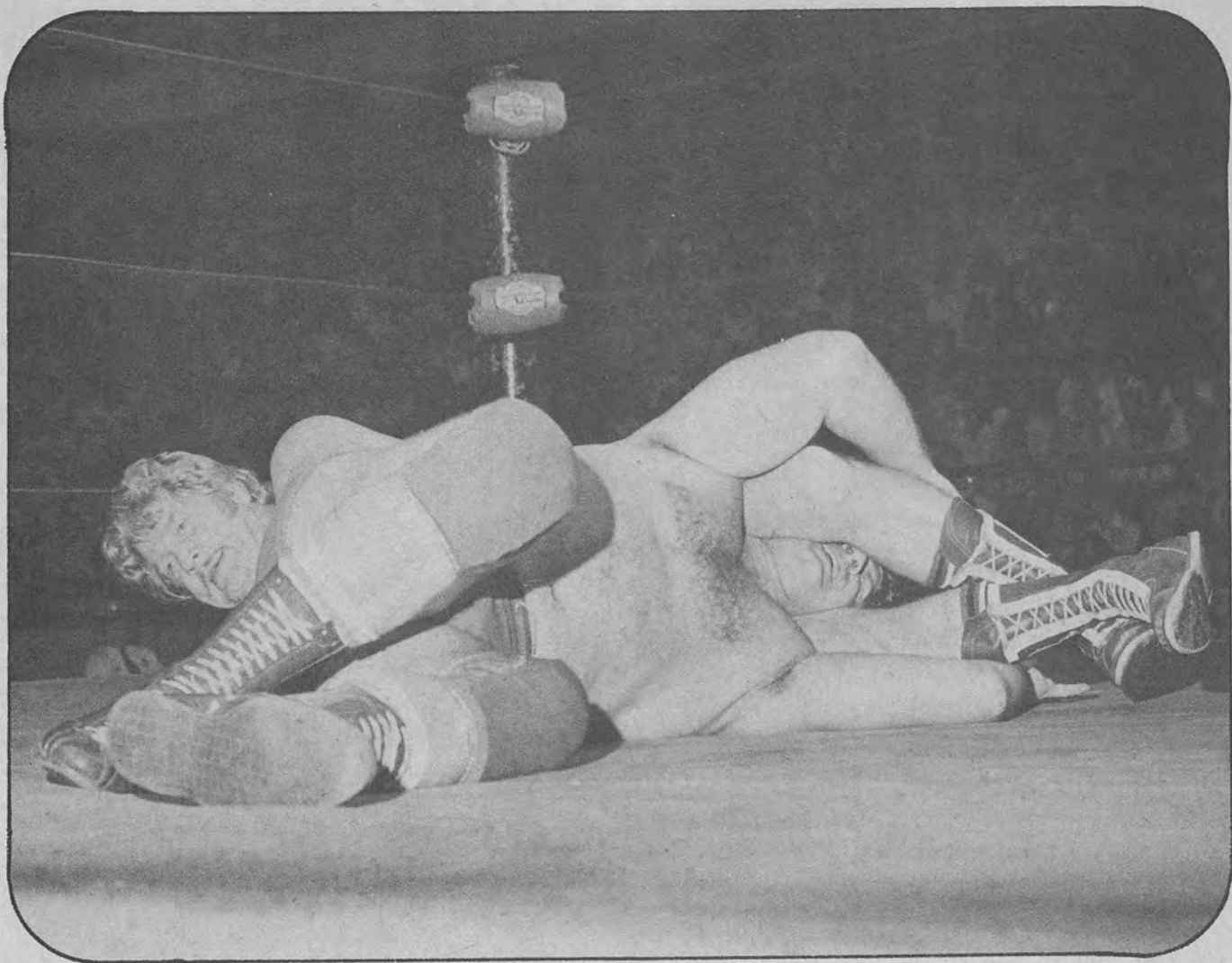


had to do something desperate. Just as Mil started to climb the ropes to execute a flying body press, Destroyer rolled out of the ring. The referee started to count him out. But Destroyer had other plans for what was to happen next. Just as Mil turned around to look for his opponent, Destroyer grabbed Mascaras from behind, and pulled him out of the ring.

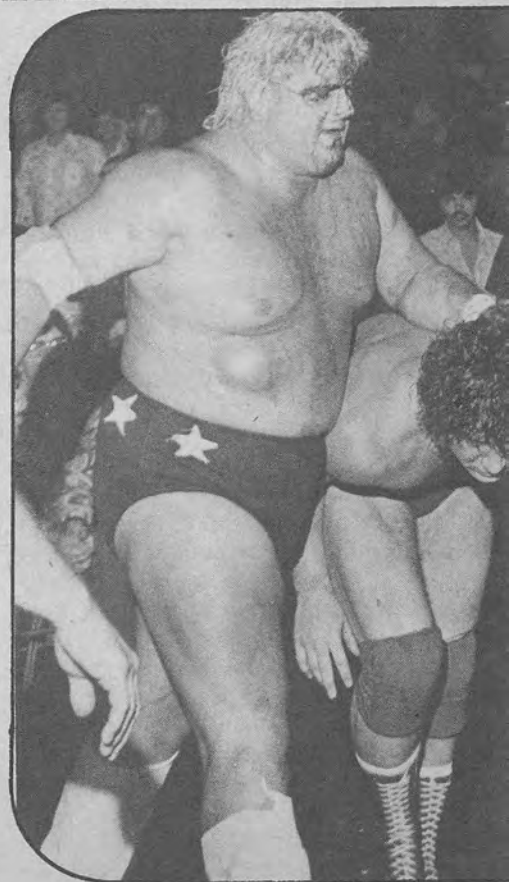
The referee started to count both men out. Mil tried to return inside the

ropes, but Destroyer would not allow it. Within a few seconds, both wrestlers had been counted out.

The next day, Mil left Japan, hoping the controversy had cleared away. A huge crowd gathered at Haneda Airport to see him off. And in one dark corner of the gate stood a tall masked figure, hiding in the shadows. He was also saying goodbye to Mil, but unlike the fans, he was not hoping Mascaras would soon return. □



**TERRY FUNK  
DEFEATS  
FOUR TOP  
STARS...  
ALL IN  
ONE NIGHT!**





# Before he became the NWA champion, Terry Funk owned the U.S. title. How he won this belt may eventually become more important to his legend than his NWA victory over Jack Brisco

PHOTOS BY GENE GORDON

**T**HE LARGEST WRESTLING crowd in Carolina history filled the Greensboro, North Carolina arena. The fans came to witness an unprecedented tournament for the U.S. championship. They would leave having witnessed the greatest night in Terry Funk's career.

The U.S. championship had been held by Johnny Valentine, who was recently injured in an airplane accident. To fill the vacancy, the NWA decided to institute an elimination tournament. Ambitious mat stars from all over the world were invited to participate. Most accepted the challenge. Valentine remained on the sidelines, cursing

his fate and vowing to return to the mat wars more fierce than ever.

But the fans in the arena were concerned with the present. And on this night, their favorite mat stars would undergo a grueling test of strength and courage. The names would be thrown into a hat and the matches decided by luck. Those who won would go on to the next round. There would be four victories chalked up by the ultimate winner. When one considered the quality of opponents, the task appeared awesome.

Among those wrestling were Red Bastien, Dusty Rhodes, Rufus R. Jones, Billy "Superstar" Graham,

Wahoo McDaniel, Harley Race, Blackjack Mulligan, Boris Malenko, Tiger Conway Jr., Ole and Gene Anderson, Paul Jones, and Terry Funk. One match against any of these men is an exhausting contest. To combat four of them would test the endurance of any human.

The first round of matches was exciting and surprisingly brutal. One would have supposed the wrestlers would hold back and conserve their strength. However, if a man didn't do his best in the first match, there would be no second contest. So each battle was a war to the end.

Terry Funk defeated Red Bastien in the first round. It was a grueling encounter which required Terry to use every ounce of strength at his command. When it was over, Funk collapsed in a corner. No one expected him to survive the second round, especially when it was learned Terry's next opponent would be Dusty Rhodes.

"I'll always be proud of my victory over Red," Terry said as he took a short rest before the Rhodes' match. "I have nothing to be ashamed of if I don't make it to the semi-finals.

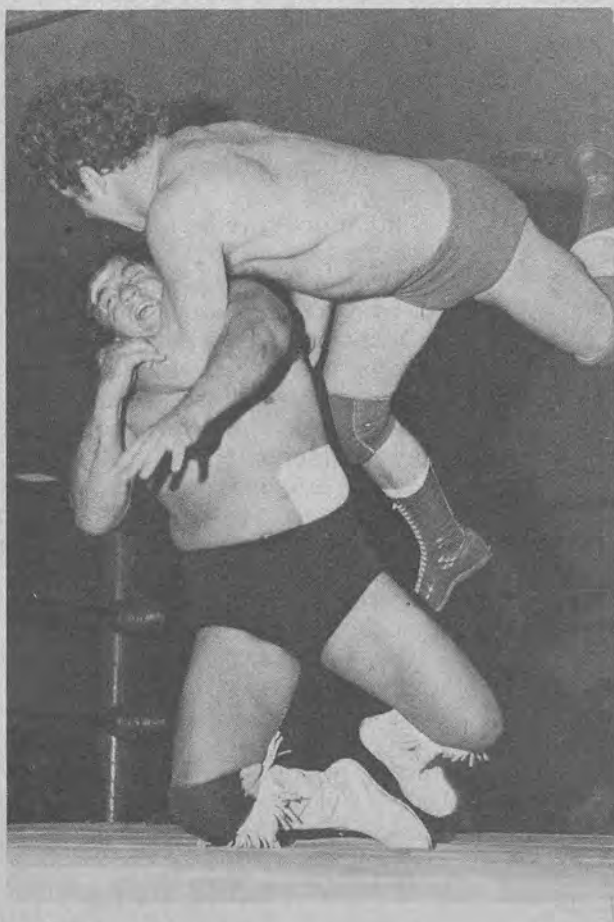
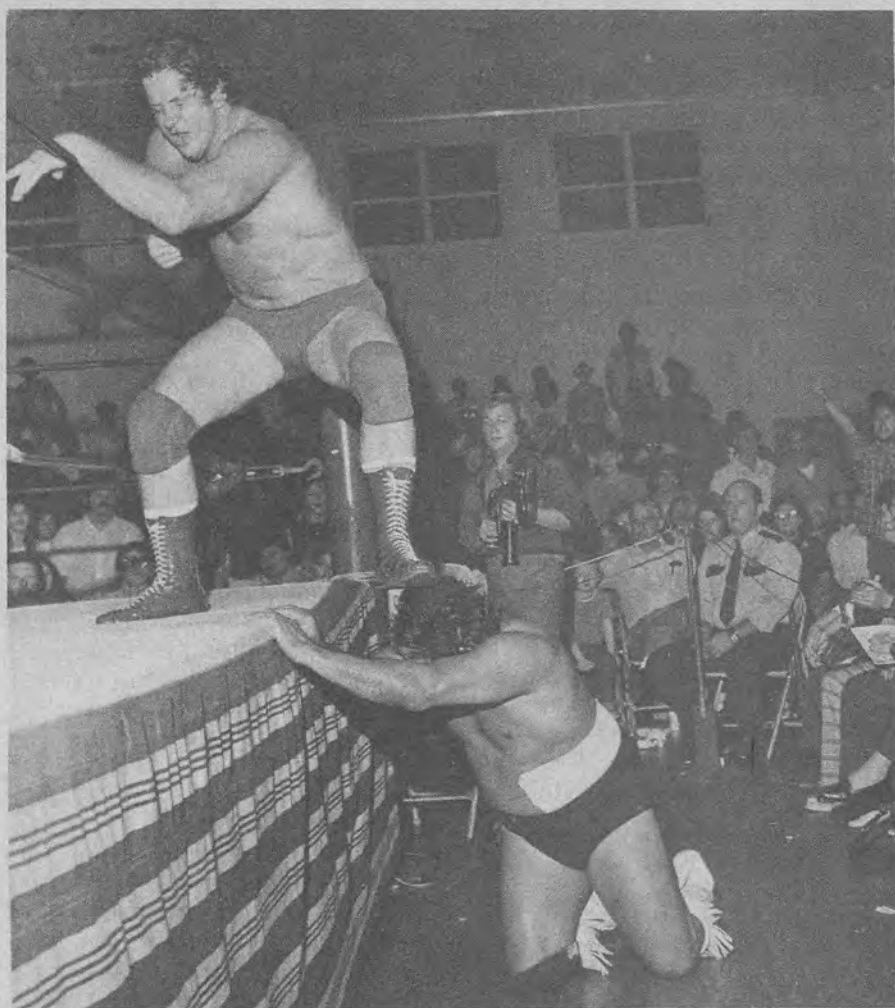
"If I'm going to win this one, I'll have to do it quickly. I don't think I could take two long matches in a row. I don't think anyone can."

Dusty appeared fresh and vibrant for the match—but so did Terry! Both men were obviously torturing their bodies to give the impression they had plenty left. It's a desperation ploy; energy is quickly spent for questionable psychological advantage. Neither man allowed himself to show fear at the other's appearance. Fear in the pit of the stomach can't be seen.

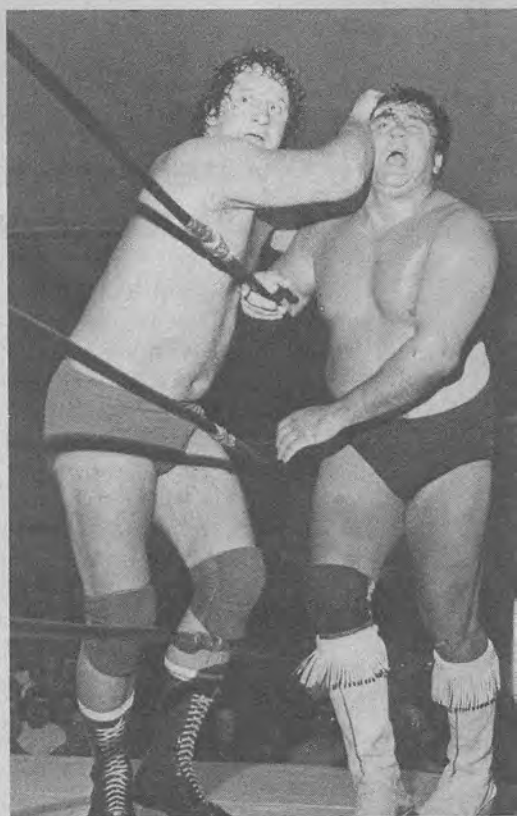
The two charged at each other during the opening seconds. Each needed a quick victory. It was a reckless, wild contest, riskier than most other professional matches. Within five minutes, Dusty Rhodes found himself crashing to the cement floor. Though his mind commanded his body to get up, his

*In his first match of the evening, Terry Funk had some rough and tumble competition from Red Bastien (left). Though Terry managed to win the battle, he was weary and bruised after the encounter. His next opponent was Dusty Rhodes, also aching from his first match. The two men brawled furiously spilling over the ropes (below). They returned to the ring and in a short, brutal brawl, Terry emerged the victor. Most who saw Terry's first two bouts couldn't believe he could withstand any more punishment and win.*





*Above right: As the cuts from Wahoo's first two matches begin to open again, Terry throws his foe along the canvas and into the ring post. Above: The action is totally out of control as Funk kicks McDaniel on the head. Terry was making sure McDaniel would be unable to keep battling. Left: A stunned Funk is sent hurtling through the air by McDaniel in the opening moments of the wild brawl.*



body was unable to obey. Dusty was counted out and Terry had gone on to the semi-finals. His next opponent would be Wahoo McDaniel.

Between matches, Terry asked everyone he could find about Wahoo's last match. The glint in his eyes were the glint of a winner's. He was in the semi-finals. Confidence was his.

He learned Wahoo had been through hell in his match. Many thought he was favoring his left leg in the final moments. Terry evaluated all this information. Wahoo's match had been a long one. Funk was rested when he faced a weary McDaniel.

Wahoo knew brute strength was never going to win him the match; he had to rely on cunning. In the opening moments, McDaniel proved himself a genius at defensive tactics which required little energy. It was an awesome exhibition. Even Funk was impressed by his opponent's cunning. Yet, Terry was sure it was only a matter of time before those defenses could be penetrated.

As Wahoo was exquisite in execution, Funk was coolly careful. With impressive determination, he waited for Wahoo to make a mistake. Time was on Terry's side and he knew it.

*(Continued on page 64)*



# NEVER UNDERESTIMATE BARON SCICLUNA

**T**HE GROTESQUE ANTICS are what the fans remember. The opponents of Baron Scicluna remember something very different: They remember the pain inflicted by a ruthless, accomplished grappler.

When most fans discuss Baron Scicluna, they talk about his robe and

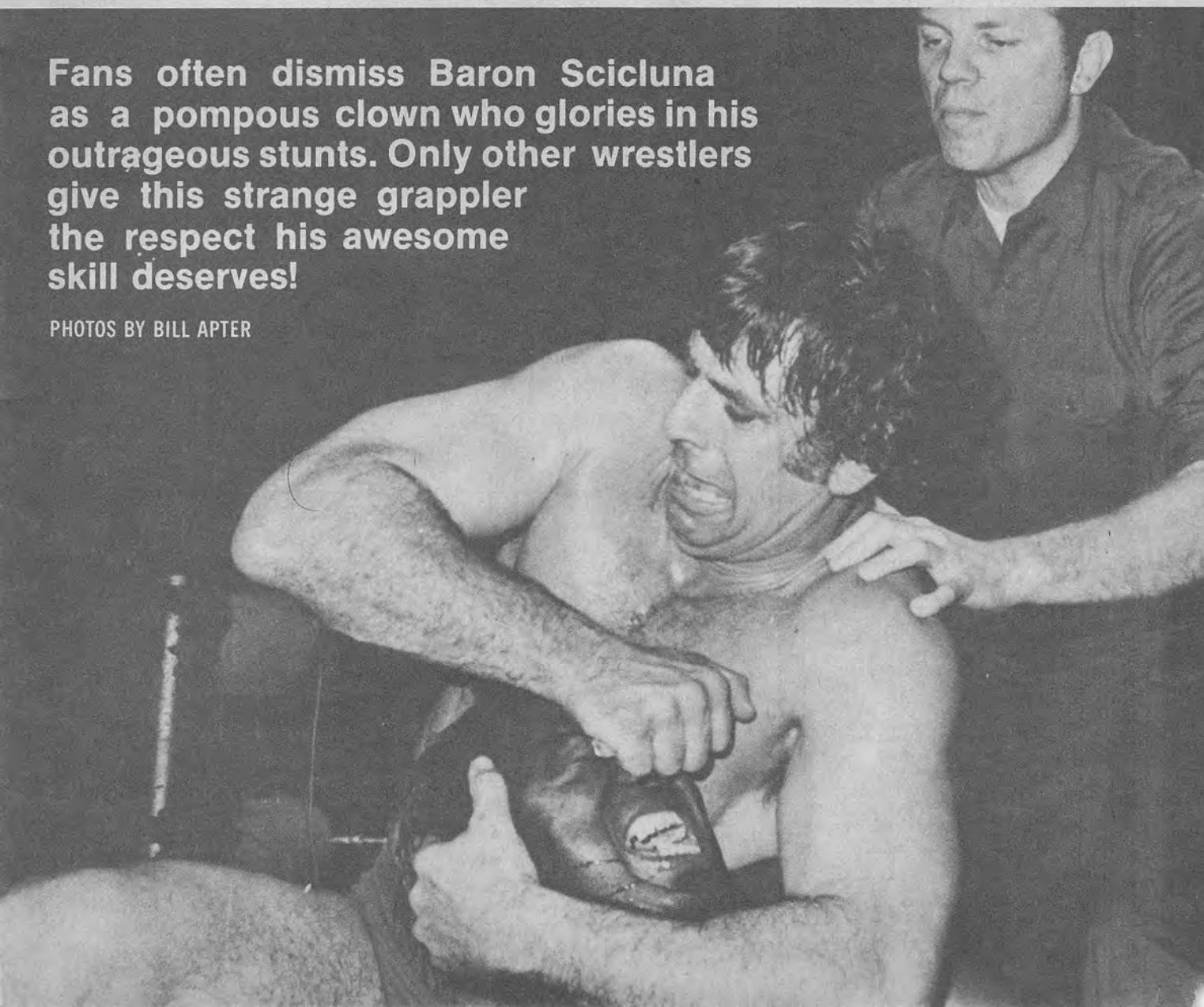
his ritual when removing it, his egotistical strut, the insults hurled at the crowd, and his absurd faces. By most fans, Scicluna is rarely considered to be one of the finest athletes in the business. But he is never dismissed by other wrestlers, however.

Fans would be stunned to have seen

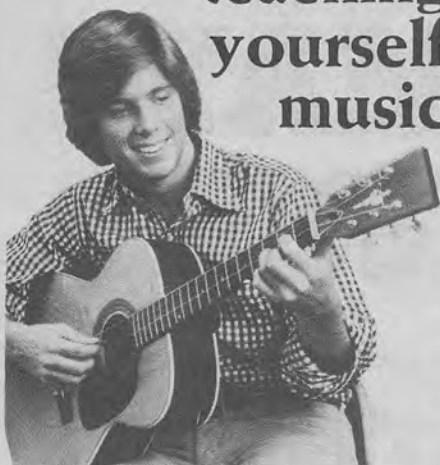
Bobo Brazil working himself into top shape with partner Dominic DeNucci in preparation for their tag team match against Scicluna and Crusher Blackwell. To the casual observer, Brazil is easily superior to the Baron. It's not a match Bobo would have to struggle to win. *(Continued on page 58)*

**Fans often dismiss Baron Scicluna as a pompous clown who glories in his outrageous stunts. Only other wrestlers give this strange grappler the respect his awesome skill deserves!**

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER



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2

# SUSAN SEXTON

(Continued from Page 18)



*Winning tests of strength with the top women grapplers in all of Australia (above) is one of the reasons Susan is the queen of wrestling there (below).*



take a guess as to who's doing the pressuring."

Susan believes she's figured out what threats Moolah is using to keep her out of the United States.

"All Moolah has to do," Susan believes, "is tell the women that whomever accepts my challenge will never have a title shot again. What woman in her right mind would sabotage her own career for a perfect stranger. She'd either have to be very crazy—or very principled. I guess none of the American women are either."

Susan may not be correct in her accusation, but she does have a right to be bitter. There can be no denying she has been frozen out of American wrestling. The few times she's wrestled in the United States, she's caused a sensation. She's even gone on *The Mike Douglas Show* to challenge Moolah. Still, she is refused matches by the top contenders in this country.

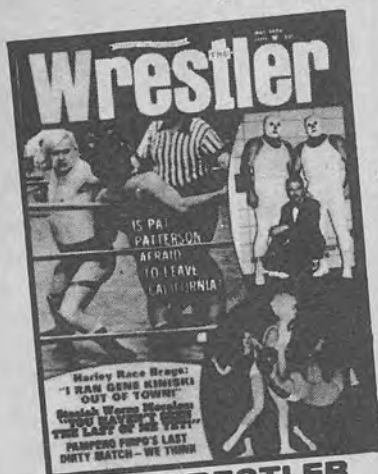
Moolah denies any conspiracy against Susan. But she also doesn't like to talk about the subject.

(Continued on page 50)



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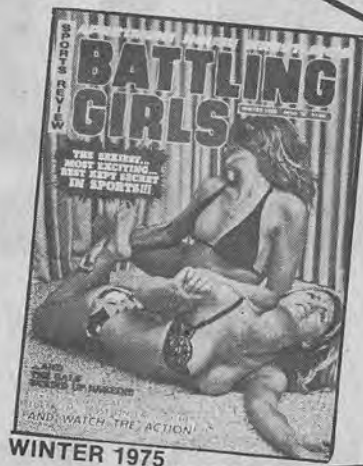
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**NOTE:** Because some material might be of a mature nature, parental approval for those under 18 is recommended.

## SUSAN SEXTON

(Continued from Page 48)



*Fabulous Moolah angrily says she has no fear of a challenge from Australia's Susan Sexton.*

"She's a silly woman who thinks her big mouth can make up for little talent," Moolah spits out when asked about Susan. "I wouldn't threaten anyone to prevent her from wrestling here. I may have told some of them a match against her would be boring, simply because she has so little skill. But that's all."

However, some of the most respected women contenders in wrestling refuse to even talk about Susan and a conspiracy. Significantly, none will deny the story. Perhaps they'll give in to Moolah to get a title shot, but none of them will lie for her. Their refusal to deny the charges can be interpreted as a tacit admission. The women say one can interpret their refusal anyway one likes.

These facts and speculations aren't bringing Susan any closer to the goal she dreams of achieving. Only Moolah can get her a title shot. And Moolah publicly states there's no way Susan will ever deserve one.

Susan is now appealing to the fans. She's begging them to write letters to their local promoters and this magazine. She hopes the fans can do what no other means has. All she asks is just one match against Moolah. It's the only way to really prove if she's a champion or not.

Susan Sexton's fate is in your hands. The realization of her dreams may only be your letter away. □



## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 10)

### NO WAY

There is no way Dick Slater and Mr. Wrestling II can ever succeed as a tag team ("The Start of Something Big!" [INSIDE WRESTLING/April 1976]). I have seen those two as enemies. Their battles are among the bloodiest in wrestling history. As a tag team, I think they have little chance of working together before they start destroying each other.

Slater and Mr. Wrestling II may have won a few victories together, but how long will it be before one or the other starts bringing up their past battles? If ever there was a tag team destined not to stay united, this is the one!

KEITH SWEETAN  
Richmond, Virginia

### TERRY WOULD WIN

In regards to "An Open Letter to Terry Funk" (INSIDE WRESTLING/April 1976), I would like to say I think Funk would easily be able to defend

his title against any of the opponents you named. Terry Funk is a great wrestler who really earned the title he now wears. None of those men could beat Terry.

Harley Race, Dusty Rhodes, Paul Jones and the others are all good wrestlers, and certainly deserve a chance to wrestle Terry. However, there is no doubt in my mind Terry would win each and every match. He is that good a wrestler.

BLANCHE MARCEL  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

### SEND THEM AWAY!

Larry Hennig and Red Bastien, in my opinion, are real losers who deserve the booing they receive when they visit Amarillo ("The Tag Team Formed to Teach a Town a Lesson" [INSIDE WRESTLING/April 1976]). To us wrestling fans in Amarillo, those two can wrestle anywhere they want, as long as they stay away from here. We don't want them.

If Hennig and Bastien think they punished us by teaming together, they are dead wrong! We all had a grand old time watching those two make fools out of themselves. In fact, it was downright hysterical!

But they better not come back to Amarillo again!

LESTER ANDERSON  
Amarillo, Texas

### NOT FOR JERRY?

I'm convinced your magazine has it in for Jerry Lawler. Everywhere I look, you are putting the king down. Don't you know the king it number one? I guess you also don't know Lawler is the one and only true champion of wrestling and the only true king of wrestling.

You have the greatest wrestling magazine in the world, so let's see some more stories on Jerry Lawler, a great champion in the sport of wrestling.

JEFF MCGUIRE  
Dyersburg, Tennessee

### FLAIR IS TOPS

Your article, "Nothing Can Stop Ric Flair Now" (INSIDE WRESTLING/April 1976) was tops! Ric is the champion in this area and is the greatest! Although you only ranked him 10th when he is number one, your magazine rates way above the others. Keep up the good work.

JOE RYAN  
Greenville, South Carolina

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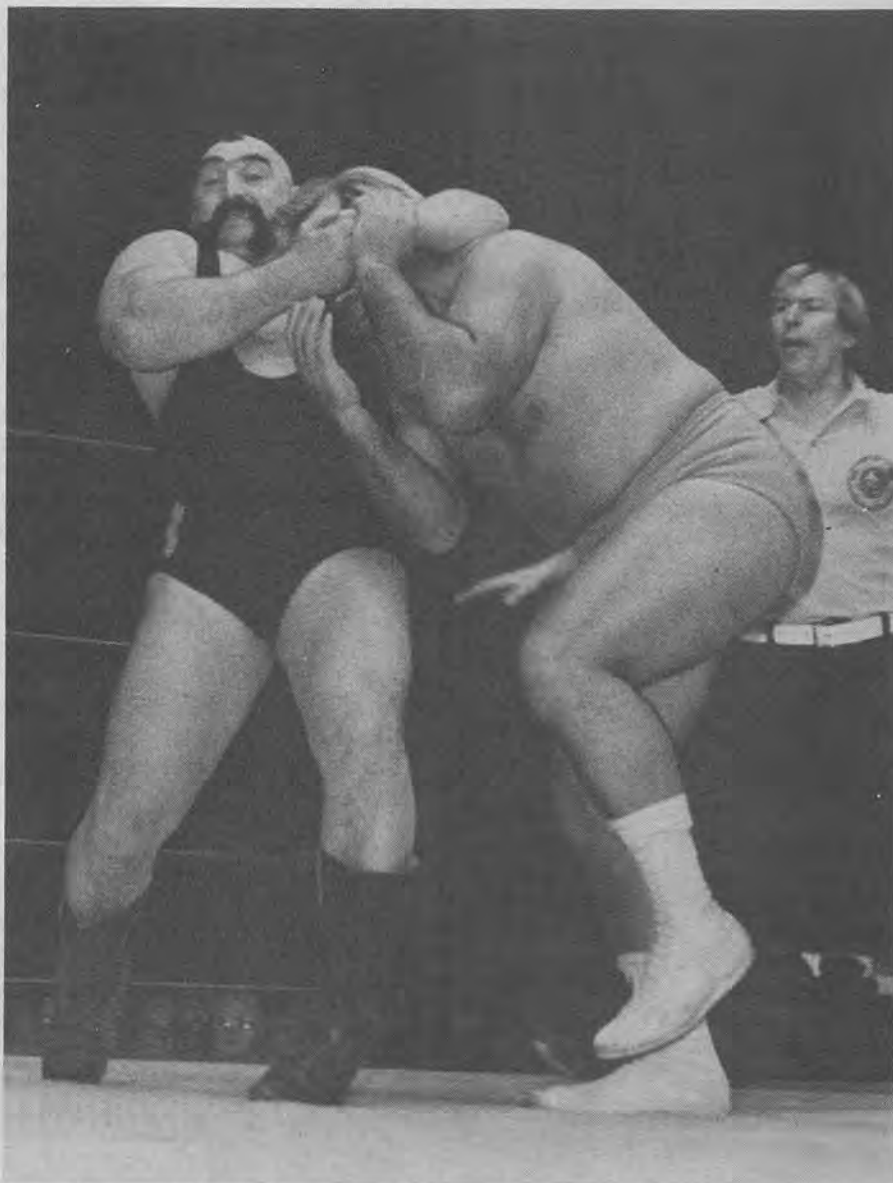
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# THE MONGOLS

(Continued from Page 21)



*Danny Miller tries desperately to escape Geto Mongol's headlock. Miller is squirming so grotesquely because Mongol is trying to rip his ear off! That's a typical Mongol bit of pure savagery!*

see them. Now that they were waging war on NWA tag teams, arenas would be filled again. It was filled this evening.

Boris Malenko, the team's advisor, stood outside the dressing room. He respected the powerful silence. He would only answer questions far out of earshot. Even then, his voice refused to grow louder than a whisper.

"It's astonishing," he kept saying. "There is some sort of magic surrounding the Mongols. These fans know it. They may boo my team, they may scream, curse, yell, and threaten them, yet they can't resist the Mongols' great-

ness. No one can. They are magnificent.

"The fans are scared and stupid but they can't keep away from the best. Have you ever seen anything like this? They can't wait for these guys to appear. I've never seen such tension. These men are stars of the highest magnitude. They are more than that—they are events!

"Geto and Bolo know they're the best. To them, this kind of excitement is commonplace. They deserve nothing less. I've seen them feed on the crowd's rage as if the screams were sources of power. There's nothing in wrestling



equal to them.

"The Mongols will be the tag team champions of the NWA very soon. They can beat the Anderson Brothers easily. The Andersons may think they're tough, but they can't even imagine what it means to be tough. The Mongols will break them into little pieces.

"Wherever the Mongols wrestle, they become champions. They went to the IWA; the title was theirs. The NWA will be no different. We will



*Even a heavy metal chain is an acceptable weapon to a man like Geto Mongol! All he wants to do is crack an opponent's head!*

quickly knock off all contenders and then send the Andersons back to Scandinavian obscurity. Once we win the title, we'll keep it until we get bored with it. It's no good to stay in one place too long. Good wrestlers need new victims."

In the dressing room, Geto and Bolo appeared unaffected by the extraordinary excitement. Even the most jaded of mat stars experience jitters when entering a new territory. These two were as calm as a mountain lake. One would almost think they had put themselves in a trance.

Finally, the time came for their match to begin. The two men took a last inspection of their gear. They then said some words in Mongolian no one was able to translate. It didn't appear to be conversation; it was more like a chant. Then, with a confidently ugly swagger, they strode into the arena.

The arena exploded with screaming. The Mongols sneered at the thousands of fans screaming their hatred. There could be no doubt about it. The Mongols were back!

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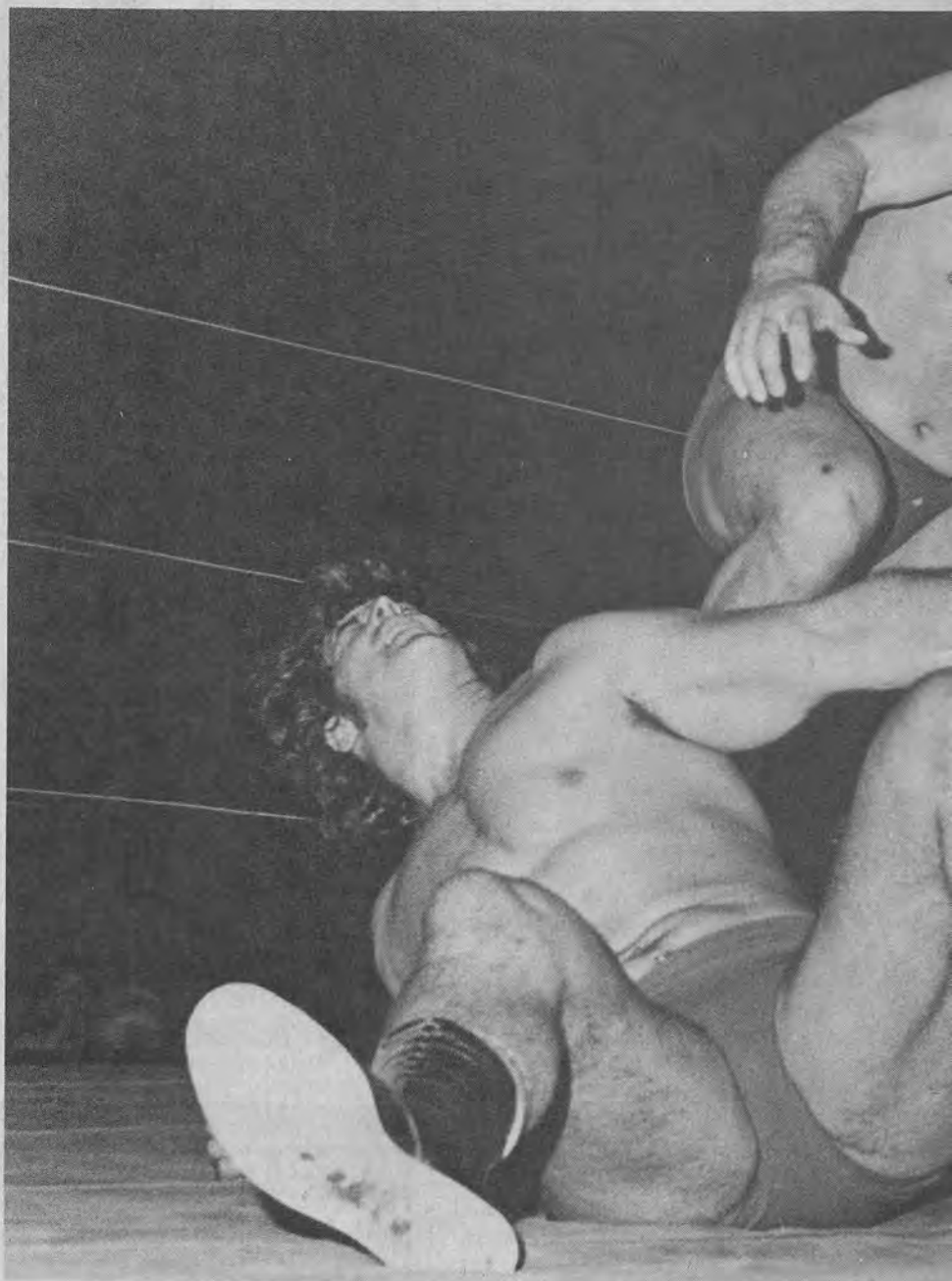
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# TONY GAREA

(Continued from Page 27)



*With savage cruelty, Garvin sends a hard kick into the small of Garea's back. Kicks of this nature have crippled many wrestlers. Luckily, Tony anticipated the move and moved his body so as not to take the full force of the brutal kick.*

WWWF area. He was searching for some winter warmth and new competition. In Ronnie Garvin, he found the competition—and it turned the sunshine cold!

Tony's battle with Garvin was a rugged contest pitting two young grapplers against each other. Tony

put on a splendid exhibition of wrestling virtuosity. Garvin displayed his ugly savagery. It was a brawl fans will long remember.

When it was done, Tony had won by disqualification. He had shown his mettle to the southern fans. When he left the arena, Tony was given a standing ovation.

"That was some match!" Garea said later. "I had to use every ounce of strength to get through it. That Garvin is a savage! I almost wish I wasn't moving on; I'd like another match against him!"

Everyone was shocked when they heard Tony was leaving. They had





expected him to stay for at least a year. But once Tony decided to wander, he has to keep going.

Garea's travels have also taken him across the continent to California. There, he has met some of the best wrestlers in the area and captured the hearts of the fans. Yet, that doesn't seem to be enough for this complex young man. He still feels the need for going someplace else.

"The best line of poetry I've ever read," Tony says, "is 'I don't care where I'm going if it isn't where I've been.'" I know exactly what the poet meant. It's the story of my life." □

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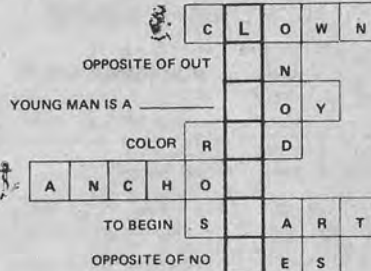
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# Murdoch vs. Mulligan

(Continued from Page 33)



*Rolling on the  
canvas in agony,  
Blackjack does  
not even see  
Murdoch come  
flying in the  
air toward him  
(above). Only  
courage and hate  
let Mulligan  
escape from his  
hated opponent's  
clutches. Still  
woozy, however,  
he is easy game  
for Murdoch to  
once again get  
Blackjack to the  
canvas (right).  
However, the  
harried victim  
once again made  
a great escape!*



Dick sat was a telegram. It was long  
and involved, mapping out two  
complex wrestling maneuvers.  
However, there seemed to be an  
underlying desperation beneath the  
technical jargon, as if the writer felt  
these moves were of the utmost  
importance. The telegram con-  
cluded, "Kill him. Love always,  
Dusty."

In Mulligan's dressing room,  
there was the same kind of tension.  
However, Blackjack's way of

fighting the feeling was to rave  
against it. His shouts could be heard  
throughout the dressing room area.

"This is the last one!" he shouted  
repeatedly. "The last one! The last  
one! Murdoch will be finished! He'll  
never wrestle again! Tonight, Dick  
Murdoch is wrestling his last  
match!"

"I'm the greatest! I can stompy any  
man in my path! Tear him apart  
without breaking a sweat! Murdoch  
must fall! Murdoch must fall! To-



night will be the night!"

Every so often, Mulligan punched his fist into a locker. He was psyching himself up, forcing his adrenalin to flow. By the time the match was to start, Mulligan was a raging beast.

The two men entered the arena about 30 seconds apart. When they saw each other for the first time, they instinctively took a step toward attacking. They stopped, knowing the battle would begin officially soon enough.

The introductions over, the men poised in their corners, the bell rang. Like missiles, the two men rushed towards each other. They locked in the center of the ring. What followed was a whirlwind of legal and illegal tactics. These men proved themselves experts at torture techniques. No one had to tell the fans Murdoch and Mulligan were battling for their lives.

Neither man could gain dominance quickly. Mulligan's headlocks were broken without Murdoch suffering much damage. The referee was magnificent, stopping illegal chokes before a man went senseless. Both men used their entire repertoire of tactics, but without success. Before the match was 10 minutes old, everyone knew this battle would be decided on endurance and courage.

Both men proved themselves brave and possessing incredible stamina. For 45 minutes of grueling action, suffering pain which would kill an average man, the two men never let up for an instant. Near the last minutes, it was grotesque; two agonized bodies stumbling toward an opponent barely sensed. The time limit mercifully ran out and the match was declared a draw. Mulligan and Murdoch were disappointed, but they were relieved to have the ordeal ended.

There will be other matches between these two men. They will probably be just as savage as this ugly exhibition of pain and cruelty. Sooner or later, one of them will get lucky and control the match. When this happens, the victim will have his last match. His body will be crippled and maimed for the rest of his natural days. Tragically, there will be no way for the unlucky wrestler to escape this fate. Will it be Dick Murdoch? Will it be Black-jack Mulligan? Only the future has the answer.

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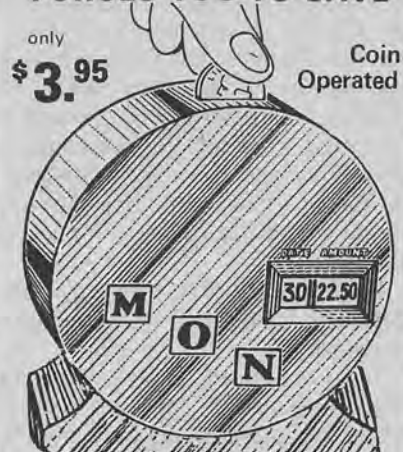
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# BARON SCICLUNA

(Continued from Page 47)



*After bringing the great Bobo Brazil to his knees, Scicluna pulls at the man's hair with sadistic delight. Baron does this because he knows it will humiliate Brazil and possibly force him into a careless mistake. It is one of Scicluna's psychological ploys.*

"Only an idiot isn't at his best for Scicluna," Brazil declared. "The man is always dangerous. He plays those games to make an opponent feel he's not worth worrying about. More great wrestlers have lost to Baron by underestimating him than I care to remember. He's one of the most dangerous men around."

"Few people realize when Scicluna is strutting around, he's determining the rhythm of the match. His opponents can't mount an offensive because the Baron is dictating what can happen. Remember, you have to be very wary when he's going through his absurd actions; from each one he can savagely attack you. He's a very cunning wrestler, make no mistakes about it!"

Bobo has a theory as to why Baron Scicluna swaggers with enraging pomposity.

"You've noticed," Brazil points out, "how aggravated the fans become when Scicluna does his stuff. It makes him feel like a despised, but important, person. For a little while, he can be a real baron looking down on his mistreated peasants. He loves that more than a reputation for being a great wrestler."

Brazil could only take time out for a short interview. He had to keep training, devising new and more effective

holds. Maneuvers must be complex to conquer Scicluna's cunning.

To watch Crusher Blackwell and Scicluna train was to see why Baron is so valued as a tag team partner and so feared by his opponents. In all tag teams, compromises in style must be made by each partner to form a unified team. The fewer the compromises necessary, the more effective the team. Scicluna's great gift is his adaptability.

Even Blackwell was amazed at how little he had to change as Scicluna's partner. Baron quickly complemented all of Crusher Blackwell's best moves with effective maneuvers of his own. It appeared effortless on Scicluna's part. Veteran wrestlers will tell you it's the most painstaking and difficult of tasks. Blackwell would be at his best for the match because he didn't have to worry about conflicting with Scicluna's style. That's an advantage any tag team would give anything to have!

The night of the match, fans were prepared to see their favorites, Bobo Brazil and Dominic DeNucci, easily conquer Baron Scicluna and Crusher Blackwell. Only the most knowledgeable observers knew it would be a brutal contest which either team could conceivably win. And any of the four men could conceivably be carried out on a stretcher.





*Tortured in Baron's bearhug, Brazil is asked by the referee if he wants to submit and end his horribly inhuman agony.*

The crowd booed loudly as Scicluna strutted around the ring, waving his cloak in regal contempt. The fans couldn't wait to see Bobo and Dom get their hands on the pompous fool. Like fans all over the world, they underestimated Baron Scicluna.

And like fans all over the world, they were shocked to see Baron dominate the match. Using tactics both legal and illegal, he tormented DeNucci and Brazil. These men had to use all their skill and cunning to avoid being massacred. The fans couldn't understand it. They didn't realize Scicluna's genius is as subtle as his pranks are outlandish.

But the real mettle of Baron was proven when he was in trouble. When caught in a Brazil headlock and a DeNucci spinning toe-hold, he refused to surrender. Despite the pain and the threat of being crippled, he never considered submitting. Even those who despise Scicluna had to be awed by his courage.

For most of the match, Scicluna was the dominant force. He was almost always in the thick of the action. Blackwell was there mostly to help his partner out. By the time 30 minutes had passed, neither team had been able to conquer the other, and the match was declared a draw. It was a great battle for Scicluna, one which even a champion would have been proud of.

Right after the match, the fans were talking about Brazil and DeNucci's skills—and Baron Scicluna's outrageous behavior. Once again, they had underestimated this great wrestler! □



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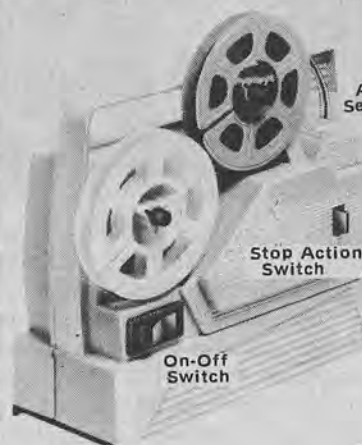
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## MR. FUGI

(Continued from Page 39)



*Fugi brings Race to his knees  
with an armlock (above) and  
then sends Race hurtling wildly  
across the hard canvas (below).*



natural rhythms and strategies were lost. It was a sacrifice you were not even aware was being made.

"Once the tag team went its separate ways, you were still wrestling with the tag team rhythms and strategies. No one can do that and succeed. You did not know you were doing it and you did not succeed. Failure hounded your every move.

"I remember your original style as I remember all styles. I will teach you to be yourself."

Two weeks later, Mr. Fugi boarded a jet for San Francisco. There was a battle royal slated and he was determined to win it. He had found himself once more and wanted to settle a lot of scores at once.

It was a particularly rough battle

royal. Some of those eliminated suffered huge gashes and concussions. Everyone was shocked to see Fugi with Ray Stevens at the end. One handful of salt later, Stevens had been blinded and Fugi had won the battle royal. Though he had cheated, the victory was his. For some, the end justifies the shabbiest means.

Fugi strutted out of the arena that night a new man. He had tasted a great victory and his brain was whirling with success. He knew this would be the greatest time in his life.

Shortly thereafter, the new Mr. Fugi upset Pat Patterson and captured a version of the U.S. title. It was a good feeling to once again have a championship belt around his waist. If his excellent skills were complemented by cheating, his was the kind of illegal tactics which win titles. One can despise the way Fugi won, but no one can take away his name from the honor roll of champions.

To cap his return, Fugi defeated Harley Race in one of the most brutal matches ever seen. Two jungle beasts could not have engaged in more primitive savagery. For a man whose career appeared over, Fugi proved himself one of the top mat stars around.

Back in Japan, and old man listened of Fugi's accomplishments and smiled knowingly. Da Kow had aided another grappler to succeed in the sport he loved. The old man doesn't approve of illegal tactics. But he does approve of success. And Mr. Fugi is succeeding. That means Da Kow has succeeded. □



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# PUNISHMENT

(Continued from Page 37)



*Above: Bruno falls to his knees in a test of strength against Graham. Below: Ernie Ladd is preparing to jab his taped thumb into Sammartino's neck.*



Sammartino. Bruno had to match power with power against Graham, a man known for crippling opponents with sheer strength.

Bruno struggled valiantly to win the matches against Graham. He actually lost one match due to a controversial decision. He was able to retain the title only because of a technicality, though many people believed Superstar deserved to take the belt.

Sammartino's friends begged him not to take on Ernie Ladd so soon after the matches with Graham. They felt he needed a short rest; time could only help Bruno, not hurt him. But the WWF champion refused to heed their advice. He accepted Ladd's chal-

lenge.

When will this all stop. There seems to be no end in sight as long as Bruno remains champion. The WWF must do its best to bring in the top contenders. But how much longer can Sammartino withstand the punishment?

"He must be aching," says his friend, Bobo Brazil, "but Bruno is in great shape. There isn't a finer athlete in the sport. Sure, the punishment must be getting to him. But he doesn't let it show, at least to the fans. He shrugs off the pain and keeps on going. The man is amazing. I have never seen anyone like him."

But not everyone echoes Bobo Brazil's feelings.

"Sammartino is over the hill!" screams Captain Lou Albano. "The man is obviously past his prime. The only way he keeps his belt is by paying off the commissioners, the referees, and the promoters. My men have broken his bones, bloodied him, and outclassed him hundreds of times. Have you seen Sammartino on the street lately? He is walking with a cane!"

Most wrestlers share Bobo's feeling, but no one is absolutely sure of how well Bruno is withstanding the punishment.

But his friends also know Bruno is in top shape and doesn't show the pain. He will keep going until the day arrives when he no longer can enter the ring.

However, if the punishment is taking its toll, that day is bound to come soon. □



## JOE LEDUC

(Continued from Page 19)

do have some bad feelings toward LeDuc. But this plot, as you call it, bah! It's ridiculous. Nonsense."

"Leduc has no talent," Von Hess stressed. "If three of us are together plotting to wipe him out, which I'm not saying we are, we'd be doing wrestling a sincere favor."

Von Shotz agreed with both of them. But none of them would admit to the plot.

"There is one," claimed Edouard Carpentier. "I have overheard these three men in a restaurant a few weeks ago. I sat in a booth next to them and listened in. I couldn't hear all the words they were saying but Joe's name came up very often. He'd better get some help soon."

"I don't need any help," Leduc snapped when he heard of Ed's suggestion. "Look, if they want to rub me out, let 'em try. I can handle them, individually."

But that's not what the trio is looking for.

"Leduc has said many times that he can take on three men at once," Von Shotz claimed. "We'll take him up on his offer."

"I have said that," Joe admitted. "Okay, if they want to, I will."

And they did. But man, did those three ever regret it. They wrestled tag team style, tagging fast and often. Many times they got Joe in the corner and triple teamed him. But each time, Joe overpowered them. Then, one by one, he bashed their heads into the ringposts and turnbuckles until they were three of the bloodiest messes you've ever seen. But Joe didn't get off easy either. After they were good and bloody, Von Shotz tripped Joe and then bit chunks out of his forehead. Joe was bleeding profusely now.

"Stop the match!" fans yelled seeing all the blood.

"Don't!" Leduc ordered to the referee. "I'm fine." But the referee refused to listen to Joe and stopped the match.

"They're lucky they got off so easy," Leduc said. "You see, they can't handle themselves against *one* man. Let 'em try it again."

And from what we hear, they're going to take Joe up on his offer again.

*Leduc (right) says, "Bring 'em on. I'm not afraid of the three of 'em. No plot is going to scare me!"*

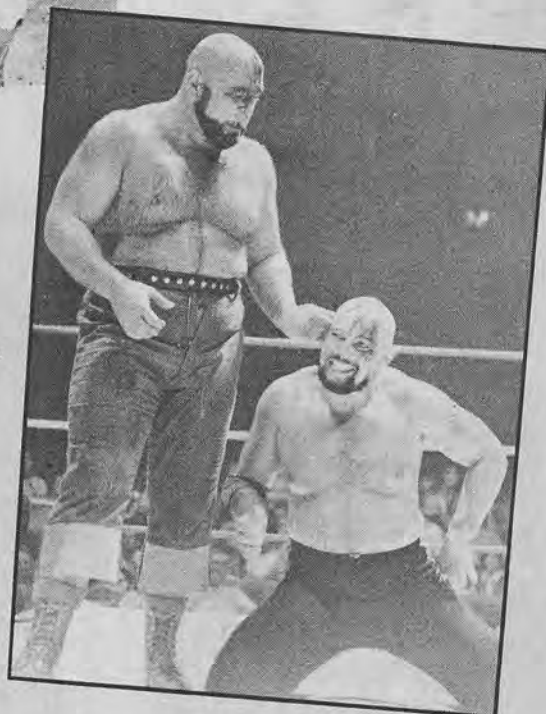
*Joe proves his point (below) by bashing in Dubois' head. "I'll take all three of them on at once," Joe exclaims. "Leduc is a nothing," the three agree. "He's got to be put out to pasture for his own good. We intend to kill him."*



*Kurt Von Hess is failing in his attempts to destroy Joe (right). Joe did take on all three of them, finally, and beat them.*

*"Leduc was lucky," Von Hess said. "He's a madman and madmen always have a lot more power than normal people. He's an animal and should be locked in a cage!"*

*Joe's brother, Paul, and Edouard Carpentier offered to help Joe rub out the deadly trio but Joe refused. "I can handle them" he said.*



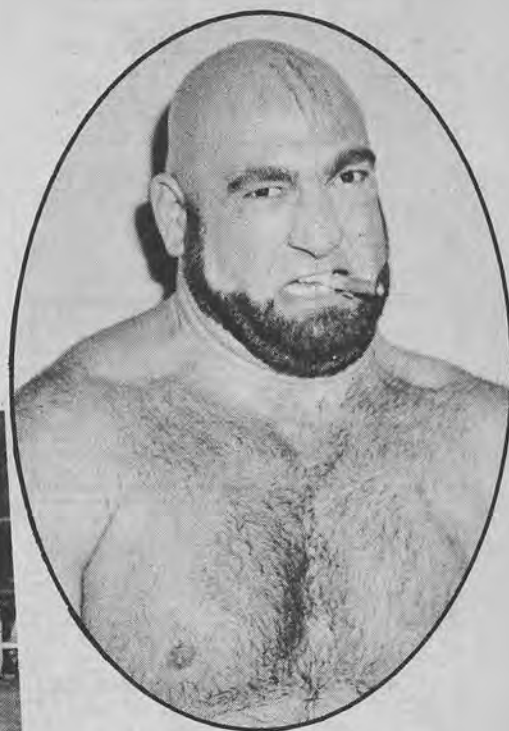
"Next time," Von Hess stressed, "we will kill him. Leduc was lucky this time. But then a madman always has more power than you'd expect. He's a madman. He should be locked up like an animal. He's killing wrestling."

"That's right," Dubois agreed. "We will admit it. We are plotting against Joe Leduc. It's obvious now. There's

no reason to hide it. Mr. Leduc, you will not finish up this year in one piece. We will tear you limb from limb. Rip you to shreds. Make you bleed to death!"

Joe says he's not afraid.

"All I can say," he explains, "is that I have a plot planned for them. It's at the cemetery! And they'll be takin' up that plot very soon!" □



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# TERRY FUNK

(Continued from Page 46)

*Right, opposite page: Exhausted and barely able to move, Terry Funk has his arm raised in victory as he is proclaimed the new U.S. champion, won after a brutal marathon of matches. Right: Terry is being tortured by a tough headlock applied by Wahoo McDaniel early in their match. Below: Groggy from his ordeal, Funk enters the dressing room.*



The inevitable happened. McDaniel charged and Funk countered. A few moments later, Wahoo's injured left leg was being tortured in a spinning toe-hold. Somehow, McDaniel escaped, but

he was finished. All he could do was stumble around the ring and wait for the inevitable conclusion.

Terry Funk was one victory away from the U.S. championship. However, between Funk and the





championship stood the awesome roadblock of Paul Jones.

Both men used every second between matches for rest. They fell into a sort of trance, hardly moving to conserve every last ounce of energy. Each body had taken considerable punishment over the course of the evening. The last match would be a test of endurance nearly unequalled in the history of professional sports. This fourth contest would be an unforgettable event.

The match was a strange combination of recklessness and restraint. This was the do-or-die contest and it all had to be decided in these few minutes. Yet, these men were relying on brains more than brawn. This match would go to the smarter, not stronger, athlete.

Paul and Terry warred for more than 25 minutes. Finally, Funk executed a perfect flip and Jones fell through the ropes. The evening's punishment crushed Paul and he couldn't get up. It was all over. Terry Funk was the new U.S. champion.

Exhausted, Terry crumpled to the canvas. He could barely remain conscious. With his final victory, his endurance had collapsed. With his new title belt, he stumbled back to the dressing room, his body heaving from exhaustion.

It was the greatest night of Terry Funk's life. From now on, all other wrestling accomplishments will be judged against these four grueling victories. The feats of Terry Funk will be praised as long as man admires athletic achievement! □

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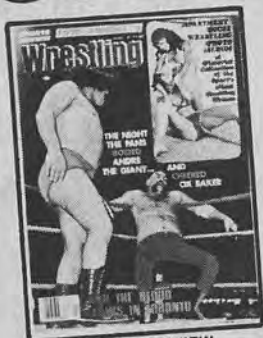
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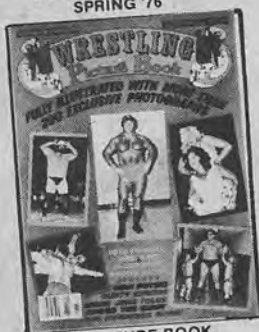
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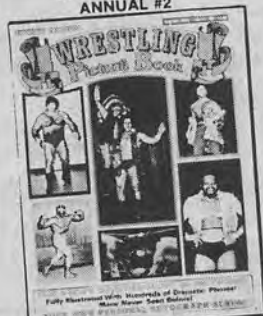
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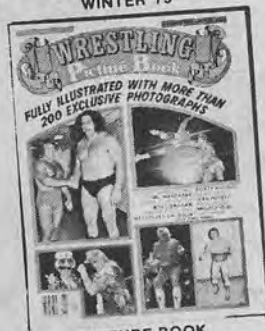
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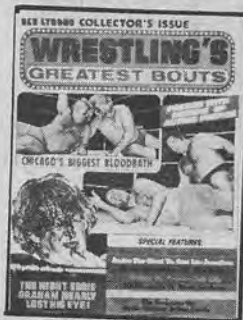
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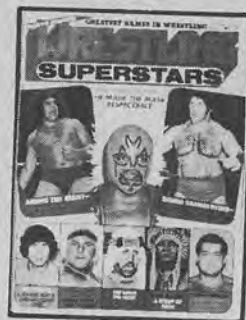
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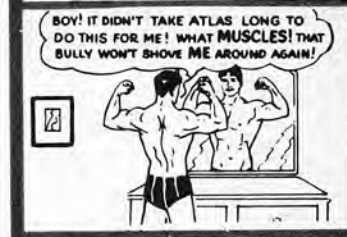
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